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Gov't, PA discuss delaying final status talks

DAVID MAKOVSKY and LIAT COLLINS

OFFICIALS in Jerusalem are confident that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat will agree to delay the start of final status talks until after the Israeli elections, but stress there is no Palestinian agreement yet to do so. While there have been informal meetings between the two sides on this issue, no formal decision has been made. According to the Oslo accords, those talks are to begin on May 4 and conclude no later than May 1999. Some believe opening the talks before the election on May 29 could provide the Peres government with an unwanted photo-opportunity, since Israel has agreed to negotiate the future of Jerusalem. A source close to Arafat said last night, "This issue of when final status talks begin is a non-issue. It should not matter when the talks begin, as it is known to Arafat and others that there will be no progress on the eve of an Israeli election." The same source also denied that the Palestinians have made any decision on whether they want the final status talks to start on time or not. The opposition continued its campaign on Jerusalem yesterday, focusing its attention on the first readings of two bills which would require a two-thirds majority of 80 MKs to endorse any changes of the city's status or borders. The bills, initiated by Uzi Landau (Likud) and Yitzhak Levy (National Religious Party), were defeated 55-32. The surprise abstentions by Third Way members Avigdor Kahalani and Emanuel Zissman angered opposition MKs. Landau noted the two had supported the preliminary reading and suggested the abstentions were influenced by considerations of a possible future coalition between the Third Way and Labor. Likud Leader Binyamin Netanyahu told a press conference after the vote that the bills had been a credibility test for the government to prove it is serious on protecting Jerusalem's status. "Just imagine what an effect it would have had in the world had the government voted in favor of this law. What a strong message it would have sent to the Arab world." Talking to reporters later, Prime Minister Shimon Peres denied he "had voted against Jerusalem." In the plenum, Levy had called on the government to prove its intentions on Jerusalem by supporting the bill. "What do you have to lose by this vote? After all, we all know you are interested in the unity of Jerusalem, but that [Yasser] Arafat doesn't hear what you're saying." Landau said that Peres has a problem. "The prime minister's dilemma is to choose between Jerusalem and the struggle for it and the support of MKs Tamar Gozansky [Hadash] and Abdel Wahab Darawshe [Democratic Arab Party]. He chose Gozansky and Darawshe. The prime minister had to choose between the continued negotiations with the PLO and Jerusalem, and he chose to continue negotiating with the PLO." Justice Minister David Liba'i stressed the importance of Jerusalem to the Jewish people, but said the special majority is undemocratic. "My opposition is a constitutional [matter]. You are asking the Knesset to create a precedent by which 41 MKs would have the right of veto in matters of state. That's what you want. You want a dangerous legislative precedent." He emphasized that the Labor Party platform is clear that Jerusalem is and will remain the united and eternal capital of Israel. "Any attempt to attribute other intentions to the government is unfounded and an act of deception," he said.

US Jews worried by Buchanan win Republican candidate upsets Dole in New Hampshire

MARILYN HENRY NEW YORK

AMERICAN Jews, once derided by Pat Buchanan as Israel's "amen corner in the United States," were worried yesterday, after the pugnacious commentator captured the nation's first primary. Buchanan won a razor-thin victory in New Hampshire's Republican presidential scramble on Tuesday, leading his chief rival, Sen. Robert Dole, to call the contest for the Republican nomination "a race between the mainstream and the extreme." Buchanan recently shied away from anti-Israel, antisemitic, and Holocaust-denial rhetoric, and has not been speaking of "Christian values," said Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League. "The fact still remains that he has never retracted, repudiated, or apologized for the hateful and painful language of the past," Foxman said. "When challenged to do so, he defends it." Because of their special tax status, most Jewish organizations are constrained from intervening directly or indirectly in political campaigns, and could not comment directly on the Buchanan victory. Most seemed to believe Buchanan is unlikely to win the presidential nomination, but they noted that his victory would give him a painfully prominent role in shaping the Republican platform. Last week, the co-chairman of Buchanan's campaign, Larry Pratt, stepped down after reports that he had shared a podium with white supremacists. Jewish observers were concerned that Buchanan did not denounce his campaign aide. A complete but unofficial count yesterday showed Buchanan won 27 percent of the vote, followed by Dole with 26%, and former Tennessee governor Lamar Alexander with 23%. Magazine publisher Steve Forbes was humbled by a distant fourth-place finish, with 12%. "This now is a race between the mainstream and the extreme," Dole said. "It is a race between hope and fear. It's about freedom and it's about intolerance, which I will not tolerate." Buchanan, who carried his America-first themes against immigration and international trade deals to victory, predicted that a panicked Republican establishment would rally around Dole in a desperate effort to keep him from winning the party's presidential nomination. "I'm not the Republican front-runner, but I'm breathing hard on his heels and I think he's breathing very hard right now," Buchanan said. "I think we have a fighting chance to win this Republican nomination." "What bothers me is that a significant number of people would consider him acceptable," said Hyman Bookbinder, who served as the Washington director of the American Jewish Committee for nearly a quarter-century. Several Jewish observers noted that the Buchanan victory had placed him in the mainstream, while the campaign attracts "extremists." "There should be no guilt by association," Bookbinder mused. "But someone should ask, even if Buchanan is not a racist and not an antisemite, how do you explain that the racists and antisemites favor you?" If the US doesn't solve the problems of economic insecurity, "some demagogue will step forward," Bookbinder said. "We have to remember that the demagogues here and abroad have always been able to take advantage of the failures of democratic society to meet the needs of the people." In his victory speech, Buchanan led the crowd in an off-key rendition of "God Bless America." "Just as he was off key there, he is off key in his message to America," said Malcolm Hoelen, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. "The danger is not whether he gets the nomination - which I don't think he can get - but how he will influence the agenda. We saw much of what he said in '92 being corrupted in '96: isolationism, an anti-foreign mood, etc. Politicians pick those messages up, and when they see there's a popular response to that, they mimic him. "People are not voting for him because he is perceived as an antisemite, but it's not enough of an issue for those people to vote against him." Eli Wohlgerter contributed to this report. Analysis, Page 4



Republican presidential hopeful Pat Buchanan celebrates as the results of the New Hampshire primary appear on TV. (AP)

Early elections bill passes first reading unanimously

LIAT COLLINS

BY a unanimous vote of only 12 MKs, the Knesset yesterday approved first reading of a bill to move the elections up to May 29. Coalition and Labor Faction Chairman Ra'anan Cohen said the date had been agreed upon by all factions, adding that even when Labor had initially suggested May 21 "it was with the idea of settling on May 28." He said he had no problem agreeing to the request of one extra day. Knesset Law Committee Chairman Dedi Zucker criticized the handling of the selection of polling day, saying he had only narrowly avoided a filibuster and no-confidence motion on the issue. The Knesset also passed in first reading a series of amendments relating to polling day including rescinding the ban on showing MKs and candidates on state television for 30 days before the elections; making all those who are aged 18 on election day eligible for the vote; affording hospitalized patients the vote; and shortening the period during which the results must be published from 14 days to 8. Under one amendment, only registered parties will be able to submit lists of candidates and run for the Knesset. Until now, any list signed by 1,500 supporters could run. The bills are expected to come up for second and final reading on Monday. Meanwhile, a new date game began in the House when Cohen met with Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss to ask him to dissolve the Knesset on March 1 instead of March 20. Weiss had previously chosen March 20 instead of March 24 because of the party primary elections. Cohen explained that it was growing increasingly difficult to function properly with so many absentee MKs busy with their own campaigns. On Tuesday, a Knesset debate took place in the presence of just two MKs - Zucker, who was presenting a bill, and Weiss who was in the Speaker's chair. Weiss yesterday suggested continuing the Knesset until March 20 as planned, but limiting the voting to just one day of the week so the MKs could plan to be present. Cohen will meet with other faction heads to continue the discussion next week.

Miriam Weissman sentenced to 3 1/2 years

MIRIAM Weissman, 76, of Bat Yam, was sentenced to three-and-a-half years in prison for the attempted murder of her daughter Natalie, 34, by the Tel Aviv District Court yesterday. The crime carries a maximum sentence of 20 years. In convicting her on January 30, the three-judge panel had split three ways: Judge Sarah Sirota, who presided, found Weissman innocent; Judge Devora Berliner found her guilty of attempted murder; and Judge Ze'ev Hammer found her guilty of murder. Natalie Weissman was found dead, with her face in a pillow, on December 15, 1994. Before she was arrested, Miriam Weissman maintained her daughter had been depressed and had committed suicide. Outside the court yesterday, she said: "I didn't do anything." During the course of the trial, it became clear that Natalie had taken a fatal overdose of antidepressant pills. However, pathologist Dr. Yehuda Hiss maintained his opinion that she had been smothered to death. During the trial, the defense brought in an expert witness from abroad who testified that Natalie's death could have been caused by a drug overdose. The court ruled that her death was caused both by the overdose and by her mother's smothering her. "We have before us a lonely, broken woman ... who committed the crime out of despair and distress," the court said, adding that in determining sentence it had given great weight to the victim's previous suicide attempts. Natalie was an alcoholic who had previously tried to drown herself in the ocean, and jump from the third floor, together with her daughter. The court also said that the year Miriam Weissman spent in prison awaiting trial should count toward her sentence. (Itim) Liba'i: Split court decisions should mean acquittal, Page 3

7-year-old boy, school guard injured by pack of rottweilers

BATSHEVA TSUR

A SEVEN-year-old boy and a 70-year-old guard were mauled and severely injured by a pack of rottweilers in Bnei Brak yesterday. Late last night, Tel Aviv veterinarians were still looking for one of the dogs, which apparently had escaped. Schools in the neighborhood will strike tomorrow from 8 to 10 in protest. The incident began shortly after noon, when Oshri Tsuberi, a pupil at the Beit Hinuch Talmud Torah was heading home from school. The rottweilers were apparently roaming unleashed in a field close to the school. According to Oshri's mother, the boy, who was fond of dogs, went up to pet one of them when the pack suddenly pounced on him. "There were at least four dogs," school principal Moshe Klein told Israel Radio. "They attacked and mauled the boy all over, particularly on his face. Some other children heard his shouts and called us." Meanwhile, Yosef Laks, the guard at the nearby ORT school, heard the boy's cries and ran up to help him. Laks was also severely injured, but managed to extricate the child. Both were rushed to the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus in Petah Tikva. "I saw four or five dogs eating up the boy," Laks told Channel 1 from his hospital bed. "I was attacked myself in the leg. I put my hand down and felt the dog had a bit of flesh in his mouth. Never mind, the main thing is that the boy was not eaten up." Klein said that the dogs were driven off with a stick by the guard from the Talmud Torah who arrived a short while later. Meanwhile, police shot at the dogs, killing two of them, but the others ran off in different directions. Two others were eventually caught and impounded. The dogs' owner was detained for questioning. Klein placed responsibility on Acting Mayor Amos Mar-Haim, saying that the municipal inspectors had known that wild dogs roamed the field close to the schools. "Perhaps now that there has been a tragedy, someone will do something," he said.

Kidnapped policeman released by PA

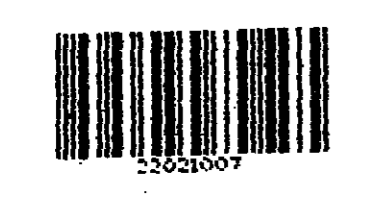
AN Israeli policeman serving at the Dotan police station was kidnapped by Jibril Rajoub's men but was later released on orders of the Palestinian Authority, Israel Radio reported. The policeman visited his family this morning at a village near Jenin. He was told by Rajoub's men to come with them because they had received data that there was a plot to kill him for being a collaborator. After being held for a few hours, he was turned over to the liaison office between Israel and the PA and released. JP Staff

Kuwaiti minister: Peace with Israel only after Syria

HILLEL KUTLER WASHINGTON

KUWAIT fully intends to establish diplomatic relations with Israel once a Jerusalem-Damascus agreement is reached, Information Minister Sheikh Saud Nasir al-Sabah said yesterday. In a speech to the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, he defended his country's lack of ties with Israel, indicating the monarchy would not establish relations first, because it is grateful for Syria's support during the 1991 Gulf War. "We will not jump ahead of our friends who stood by us in the Gulf War," he said. He stated that Kuwait and Israel have no grievances against each other, and urged that people not "lose sleep" over whether Kuwait supports the peace process. "We want the success of the peace process, the sooner the better," he stated. Alluding to Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, he also said he could envision Kuwait and Israel cooperating to rid the region of dictators.

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'Fatah stormtroopers active in capital'

JERUSALEM Mayor and Likud MK Ehud Olmert yesterday accused the police of being inactive in eastern Jerusalem, adding the resulting vacuum had been filled by "divisions of scores of Fatah stormtroopers wandering around [eastern] Jerusalem and the [Old City] markets, with identity tags clearly showing to whom they belong. This is the nucleus of a Palestinian Police unit they're preparing in Jerusalem."

Speaking to reporters at the Knesset, Olmert also repeated his claim that Jibril Rajoub's Palestinian preventive security force is also openly operating in the capital.

"Nobody is saying the government intends to divide Jerusalem but it must be judged by what's

happening on the ground," Olmert said. "This is a leadership which has lost its ability to say 'no.'"

Olmert said in meetings he had as mayor, with Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal, the minister had been told the Palestinian Authority is deepening its penetration in eastern Jerusalem, but Shahal had said he could not act without evidence that would stand up in court. He also said Shahal had promised to close Orient House several times in the past. Olmert also repeated his stand that independent advisers had said such a closure would not affect the peace process. He said the government could not avoid discussing Jerusalem's status, as it is

required to do so by a clause in the Oslo Accords, "but they might ask to put the discussions off until after the elections."

Police sources strongly denied Olmert's allegations that Palestinian police or quasi-police units were operating in the Old City. The mayor may have mistaken Wakf guards and scouts helping with crowd control during Ramadan for Palestinian policemen, the sources said. Palestinian newspapers have reported in recent days that Fatah activists also organized civil guard units in the Old City to help with crowd control during Ramadan, but there activity has been barely noticeable, the sources said.

Bill Hutman contributed to this report.



Gerer Rebbe Pinhas Menachem Alter arrives at yesterday's meeting of Agudat Yisrael's Council of sages. (Reina Hender)

Rabbis aim for pact between Aguda, UTJ

AGUDAT Yisrael's Council of Sages, which always attracts a great deal of media attention just prior to the elections, met yesterday and empowered a committee of rabbis to try to reach a compromise with Degel Hatorah that will enable the two parties to run again as a single faction.

United Torah Judaism, made up of Degel and Aguda, has been split in recent months over the question of how many representatives each faction will have on the next Knesset list. Degel Hatorah, representing the "Lithuanian" branch of the haredi world, is demanding parity, while Aguda, which represents the hassidic branch, wants to retain the present situation where it has 60 percent of the spots.

"This was the first meeting before the elections," said Avishai Shochkhamer, the secretary of the Council of Sages. "The council decided not to accept Degel's request for parity, but will set up a committee made up of two rabbis from Aguda, and two rabbis from Degel Hatorah, which will deal with the matter and then bring it to the rabbis."

Shochkhamer said that the council did not deal with the question of who will be on the party's Knesset list, and has until April 30 to do so. If the past is any indication, the party will wait until nearly the last minute before

making a decision.

Those who were hoping for some indication as to who the council will support in the race for prime minister were disappointed, and Shochkhamer said the issue did not come up, although it will undoubtedly be decided just prior to the elections. The rabbis' directives will influence the votes of tens of thousands of their followers, and their decisions are considered critical for either candidate.

Shochkhamer said that the council came out against haredim joining the Labor Party. "We need to be members of God-fearing parties," Shochkhamer said. "It is also not reasonable to register for a party that you will not vote for."

Committee on settlements to meet soon - Peres

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres said the ministerial committee on settlements, scheduled to meet yesterday but canceled at the last minute, will meet "soon," according to Minister without Portfolio Yehuda Amital.

Amital met with Peres yesterday to voice his protest at the cancellation of the meeting, which was to discuss plans to build more than 6,000 housing units in Gush Etzion, Ma'aleh Adumim, Givat Ze'ev, Betar, and Kiryat Sefer. "This government, like the previous one under Rabin, is obligated to ensure the natural development of the settlements," Amital said. He said that just a week ago Peres agreed that it is necessary to allow for the natural growth of the set-

tlements.

In addition, Amital said there is no reason to link development in the settlements to any housing arrangements promised haredim. Yesterday's ministerial meeting was reportedly canceled after Peres decided to build homes for haredim in Beit Shemesh, rather than in Kiryat Sefer. A decision to build in Kiryat Sefer and Betar would have necessitated the approval of the committee.

Meanwhile, the heads of settlements in the Jerusalem area met in Efrat and said they will begin a sit-in in front of the Prime Minister's Office on Sunday to protest the "freezing" of Greater

Jerusalem settlements. "Approving the plans in Greater Jerusalem is a true test for the Peres government, which promised to continue in the path of Yitzhak Rabin," Ma'aleh Adumim Mayor Benny Kashriel said.

In addition to the sit-in, the Greater Jerusalem Forum has asked to meet both with Peres and with President Ezer Weizman. A suggestion to begin demonstrations and protests was put off. "I don't think it is a good tactical move to begin with demonstrations," said Betar head Moshe Leibowitz. "We don't want to play into anyone's hands."

In addition to Leibowitz and Kashriel, the other settlement leaders at the meeting were Gush Etzion Regional Council head Shilo Gal, and Efrat Local Council head Yinnon Ahimam.

Palestinians protest move of mobile homes in Otniel

THE police and IDF yesterday broke up a demonstration of Palestinians near Otniel protesting the transfer of three mobile homes from the center to the outskirts of the settlement.

The demonstration was one of a number of small Palestinian protests over the last two weeks to demonstrate what they claim is land expropriation and settlement expansion.

Ron Shechner, the head of the

Hebron Hills Regional Council to which Otniel is affiliated, said that the three mobile homes were placed in an area that is "indisputably within the settlement's master plan."

"The fact is that despite all the uproar, no one - not the OC Central Command or the brigade commander - approached us and said we could not move the

mobile homes," Shechner said. He said that about 80 Palestinians from the area tried to block the trailers moving the mobile homes, but were dispersed by the police and IDF.

Shechner said that the transfer of the mobile homes was not a protest against the failure of the ministerial committee on settlements to meet yesterday, and that the committee was not scheduled to discuss any plans for Otniel. Rather, he said, the mobile homes were moved now because people want to move into them. Shechner said he knows of no regulation restricting the movement of mobile homes from one site to another inside a settlement. Otniel, located in the Hebron Hills, has some 60 families and a heder yeshiva with about 120 students.

With regret we announce the death in Eernnes (the Netherlands) of

OSCAR JACQUES VAN LEER

In accordance with his will, his body has been donated for medical research.

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H. Leliveld

Ben-Eliezer: I will build apartments for haredim

HERB KEINON

HOUSING Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer yesterday appealed to God for strength in being able to carry out the government's plan for construction in the haredi sector.

"Who isn't attacking me," Ben-Eliezer asked last night on a news program aimed at a religious audience on Israel Radio 1. "The Treasury is attacking me, [saying] that I am favoring the haredim. The haredim attack me, gay vets (go figure)."

"I am the only one who defends them, the only one who says they are citizens like everyone else, [who says] they have many children, a difficult socio-economic problem, and that someone needs to look after them and fight their battles," Ben-Eliezer said. "The only thing that remains for me is to continue to turn to God to give me the strength to build and to do."

Referring to the ministerial committee on settlements that was supposed to meet to approve nearly 3,000 housing units in the haredi settlements of Betar and Kiryat Sefer, but whose meeting was postponed, Ben-Eliezer said, "I want to promise that the apartments there will be built. Nothing will stand in the way. It may take some time, but we will build them. I hope it will be before the elections."

Ben-Eliezer said construction in Betar is continuing, a claim made earlier in the day by Betar Local Council head Moshe Leibowitz. A few hours before speaking on the religious news program, Ben-Eliezer met with editors from the haredi newspapers and gave details of plans to build nearly 40,000 housing units for haredim over the next decade. He reportedly told the editors that this includes 9,000 units in the Hashmonaim-Matityahu-Kiryat Sefer region just over the Green Line.

German FM delays visit until after elections

GERMAN Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel has decided to postpone his visit to Israel planned for March 3rd until after the elections here, Ministry officials said last night.

"We received word this afternoon from Bonn that Kinkel is not coming because of the elections here," one official said last night.

Germany apparently wanted to avoid being put in the position whereby Kinkel could not visit the Orient House due to the new order issued by Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal. The European Union has a policy whereby all foreign ministers who visit Israel must pay a so-called "courtesy call" at Orient House.

German officials also do not

want to stage a confrontation with the Peres government on this issue, fearing it will only play into the hands of the Likud.

The US, meanwhile, tried yesterday to avoid getting dragged into the dispute over whether Israel should prevent foreign ministers from visiting Orient House.

"This is a question that, really, the Israelis and Palestinians have to work out. They now have direct lines of communication with each other," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns told reporters.

"I think the time has come, probably, not to expect others to work out all of these problems, but to have them work their problems out directly," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Netanyahu: No lists on my behalf**
"There are no lists and will be no lists on my behalf. I value all the Likud candidates including Dan Meridor, a veteran member whom I greatly admire," Likud Leader Benjamin Netanyahu told reporters yesterday. To prove his point he tore up a copy of a list, omitting the names of Meridor and MK Ehud Olmert, apparently drawn up in the Likud headquarters and shown to him by a television reporter. Olmert said he believes there is no official list, and Meridor refused to comment. *Liav Collins*
- Imitation products entering from territories**
Illegal imitations of brand-name products are being made in the Palestinian autonomous regions and sold in Israel, industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish told the Knesset yesterday. The ministry has seized hundreds of thousands of such illegal products from Israeli importers already, he said, and has filed suit against the importers. Harish said the ministry is stepping up its inspection process to combat this phenomenon, and has also asked the Palestinian Authority to take action against violators. *Evelyn Gordon*
- Disciplinary hearings vs. Ichilov doctor**
Health Minister Ephraim Sneh has initiated disciplinary hearings against Dr. Vladimir Yakirevich, head of cardiothoracic surgery at Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv, on suspicion of serious negligence and disciplinary offenses, including practicing "black medicine." Health Ministry Director-General Dr. Meir Oren asked Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo to suspend Yakirevich, a municipal employee, for two weeks until the end of the investigation. No additional details were provided by the ministry. *Judy Siegel-Itzkovitch*
- State also asks to rehear Meshulam appeal**
The state yesterday joined Uzi Meshulam in asking for a second hearing with an expanded panel of justices on his appeal, but for the opposite reason. The state is arguing against the Supreme Court's decision to acquit Meshulam of one of the charges against him - shooting at a police helicopter - on the grounds that he was not present at the time. The state sides with the minority opinion, which ruled that Meshulam was guilty despite not being present, because the others were following his orders. *Evelyn Gordon*

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of

OSCAR VAN LEER

Honorary president and founder of the council and extend our sincere condolences to the family

Levinger begins sentence

Rabbi Moshe Levinger began a seven-month sentence in Ramle's Ayalon Prison last night, after being turned away from two different jails on two consecutive days because of a bureaucratic foul-up. Unlike the previous two days, last night officials at the prison had the papers needed to admit Levinger.

Levinger was convicted of rioting and disturbing the public order.

Herb Keinon

American Jewish support for peace process up since Rabin assassination

IN the aftermath of the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, support for the Israeli-Arab peace process has increased significantly among American Jews, the American Jewish Committee announced yesterday.

In a survey conducted last month, 75 percent of American Jews said they support the handling of the peace negotiations with the Palestinians, as compared with 64% in September 1995. In addition, 70% said they supported the handling of the talks with Syria, against 61% last September.

A large majority said they had a favorable impression of Prime Minister Shimon Peres, while their impressions of opposition leader Binyamin Netanyahu were evenly divided, the survey showed.

However, as was the case with previous surveys, American Jewish views of Israeli leaders had to be qualified by the fact that 53% were unaware that Peres and Netanyahu are in different parties. The survey was the fourth in a series on American Jewish opin-

ion about Israel and the peace process, which began in September 1993, immediately after the signing of the Israel-PLO accord. A demographically representative national sample of 1,013 self-identified Jewish respondents was interviewed by telephone January 10-16.

While a majority of American Orthodox Jews continue to oppose the peace process, the level of opposition among the Orthodox has declined. In January, 56% of the Orthodox said they opposed the government's current handling of the peace negotiations with the Arabs, compared with 64% in September 1995. Among other findings: - A large majority continue to believe that the PLO is not doing enough to control Palestinian extremist elements, like Hamas. - A majority opposes amending the Law of Return to ban Jewish political extremists from the country. - A large majority believes that Reform and Conservative conversions conducted in Israel should be recognized on a par with Orthodox conversions.

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JEVICALISA

MDA wants Messala off panel probing Ethiopian blood flap

DR. Amnon Ben-David, Magen David Adom's director of blood services, yesterday petitioned the High Court of Justice against the committee investigating MDA's policy of not using blood from Ethiopian donors.

EVELYN GORDON

the subject, Azmon argued. Ben-David says the policy was set by the Health Ministry before he even entered the job, and that he merely continued it.

The committee, which was appointed by Prime Minister Shimon Peres, is to hold its first meeting today.

The petition, filed by attorney Uzi Azmon, argued first of all that the presence on the committee of Addisu Messala, head of the United Ethiopian Immigrants Association, is improper. Azmon noted that Messala has repeatedly been quoted in the press blaming Ben-David for the policy and demanding that he be fired. Since one of the committee's jobs is to determine who was responsible for the policy, it is improper to have someone sitting on it who has already made up his mind on

Messala. Azmon noted, is running in the Labor Party primary, and has been using this issue as political capital.

Secondly, the petition argued, the committee is not equipped to investigate the matter properly, because it has no authority to subpoena witnesses or material, and can impose no penalties for perjury. Since the Health Ministry is trying to make Ben-David its scapegoat, the chance exists that various people will refuse to testify or conceal relevant information, Azmon said. Therefore, the committee should be replaced with a full-fledged state commission of inquiry,

which does have the power to subpoena witnesses and material, the petition said.

The committee is also technically illegal, Azmon argued, because investigative committees can be set up only by each minister in his area of responsibility. Blood services certainly do not fall into Peres's bullwhip, so he had no authority to establish this committee, the petition said.

Finally, the petition argued that Health Minister Ephraim Sneh's attempts to have Ben-David suspended or fired constitute illegal interference in what is legally an independent organization. Senior MDA officials have said they see no reason to punish Ben-David, but they are being threatened by Sneh with budget cuts if they do not take action against him, Azmon said.

The court is to hear the petition early next week.



Prime Minister Shimon Peres, surrounded by security men, visits Nebi Samwil yesterday during a tour of Jerusalem's periphery. (Brian Henner)

Truck driver involved in school bus crash remanded for 10 days

DAVID RUDGE and BATSHEVA TSUR

TRUCK driver Mohammed Hamudi who was involved in the accident with the school bus near Kibbutz Lavi on Monday in which three children were killed and 36 injured, was remanded for 10 days by Nazareth Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Hamudi, 25, of Bucina in the Galilee, told reporters as he left the courtroom that he is very sorry about the tragedy and is unable to sleep at night. "I would have preferred to die rather than the children. I don't think I am guilty though," he said.

He maintained he had been driving below the speed limit and had started to take a curve when he suddenly heard a bang from the rear.

The condition of one of the two youngsters seriously injured in the accident was considerably improved in Haifa's Rambam Hospital yesterday. Hodaya Seri, 9, fully regained consciousness and began talking. Her condition was still classified as serious.

Avi Cohen, 12, is still in a coma. Bus driver Nadim Mata, 40, of Ilaboun, is in satisfactory condition.

Five other injured children are still in Poriya Hospital, although staff there said they are all in satisfactory condition and two are likely to be released soon.

An expert's report presented to Deputy Education Minister Micha Goldman noted that "the driver's experience and training were not suitable for the complex vehicle he was driving."

The report, drawn up by Dr. Moshe Becker, the ministry's road safety adviser, also noted that "the apparently large number of convictions [16 in five years] for which the driver was caught by police would indicate that he does not learn from his mistakes. In this case, he should have kept to the right and not driven in the left lane."

The accident took place between the Poriya and Golani junctions, at a spot where numerous other accidents have occurred. Within two kilometers of the spot, there have been 64 accidents in the past five years, with 102 injured, the report states.

Earthquake rocks south again

Eilat shaken up, but no injuries or damage reported

AN earthquake rocked parts of Eilat yesterday and was felt as far north as Netanya in the continuing aftermath of the big quake that shook the same area last November.

No injuries or damage were reported in yesterday morning's quake, which measured 5.4 on the Richter scale, although it rattled buildings in the southern coastal resort city.

At the Hilton in Sharm el-Sheik, a receptionist said the tremor lasted several seconds.

"Actually, most of our guests didn't feel it," Mossad Hossein

DAVID RUDGE

told AP. "It was pretty slight, really not even worth mentioning."

Dr. Gady Shamir, from the Seismology Division of the Geophysical Institute, said the quake yesterday was part of the series of ongoing after-shocks in the wake of the November quake which measured 6.2 on the Richter scale.

He said the epicenter of the after-shock yesterday had been situated in the Gulf of Eilat region about 150 km. south of the city.

"There have been around 8,000

after shocks since the one in November, of which 150 have reached a magnitude of four and 15 have been five or over on the Richter scale," said Shamir.

"There are likely to be more after-shocks as part of the sequence that was started last November but overall the rate and magnitude of these shocks is decreasing."

Shamir said the possibility of another big quake in the same region in the future could not be ruled out, but it was impossible to predict when it was likely to happen.

Farmers in line to receive subsidies

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Agriculture and Finance ministries will work out a plan to subsidize tomato and cucumber growers, Prime Minister Shimon Peres decided yesterday at the end of a meeting on the difficult market conditions.

Tomato and cucumber growers have suffered from a drop in prices over the past year as a result of Palestinian produce flooding the market, and also from a 10 percent growth in crop output.

Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tzur proposed that the government stop helping farmers remove surplus tomatoes and cucumbers and start giving them a supplementary income according to previous production volumes. In addition, the government will encourage farmers to stop growing vegetables and move to other fields.

Tzur forecasts NIS 20 million will be needed to assist the farmers. He said the plan will reduce

prices and prevent Palestinian produce from flooding the market. Peres instructed Tzur and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat to formulate a plan during the next few days and if progress is not made, to meet with him on Sunday.

Earlier this week hundreds of Israeli farmers dumped crates of tomatoes and set fires on fire at the Nahal Oz checkpoint to protest the sale of Palestinian vegetables in Israel.

In another development, avocado growers yesterday appealed to the Agriculture and Treasury ministries for financial assistance. The growers claim they are in financial straits because of the "natural disaster in France," the largest market in Europe.

The growers claim the long strike in France and weather conditions, in Europe, significantly reduced sales, leaving the growers with large quantities of unsold stock.

Liba'i: Split court decisions should mean acquittal

EVELYN GORDON

CONVICTIONS that are not unanimous should be considered acquittals, Justice Minister David Liba'i said yesterday.

The statement comes on the heels of several controversial murder cases in which the suspect was convicted by a split decision. One was Suleiman Abeid, who was recently convicted 2-1 of the rape and murder of Hanit Kikos, and another was Miriam Weissman, convicted 2-1 of the attempted murder of her daughter, Natalie.

Liba'i noted that all criminals are supposed to be convicted beyond a reasonable doubt. If the judges are split, however, this indicates that there is a reasonable doubt as to the suspect's guilt.

He therefore proposed that all convictions in which the decision is not unanimous should be automatically sent on to the relevant appellate court - usually the Supreme Court. If the appeal judges are also split, then the suspect should be acquitted on the grounds of a reasonable doubt.

Liba'i said he will bring this proposal to the Ministerial Committee on Legislation for discussion next week.

Most criminal cases are heard by only one judge. However, serious crimes such as murder, or trials of public significance, such as that of former interior minister Aryeh Deri on corruption charges, are often heard by three judges.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Beizer Rebbe has granddaughter

The Belz hassidic dynasty yesterday welcomed its first daughter in 70 years. A baby girl was born to the rebbe's son, Rabbi Aharon Mordechai Rokah and his wife Leah at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital. Most of their family were murdered in the Holocaust. Aharon Mordechai is the only child of the Rabbi Yissachar Dov Rokah. Judy Siegel

Israel invited to EU high-tech seminar

Israel has been invited to join the seven top industrialized states in showcasing technological know-how at a European Commission-sponsored seminar for 45 developing countries on May 13-15 in South Africa, European Commission Ambassador Jean Paul Jesse said yesterday. David Makovsky



Ehud Olmert M.K., Mayor of Jerusalem

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MANAGER & DESIGNER

Buchanan win could split Republicans

ANALYSIS
ALAN ELSNER

MANCHESTER, N.H. (Reuter) - By winning the New Hampshire primary, fiery populist Pat Buchanan has dealt a severe, possibly crippling blow to Bob Dole's presidential hopes while driving a stake through the heart of Republican party unity, political analysts said on Tuesday.

Buchanan's upset victory over Dole, the Senate majority leader and longtime favorite for the Republican presidential nomination, will send a shot around the nation and the world.

"We're giving a voice to the voiceless, we speak out for those who have no representatives," Buchanan said in his victory speech. "We're going to go to Washington and we'll be the lobbyists for those who don't have a lobbyist in Washington, D.C."

"We're on the verge of taking back our party," he added. "We're on the verge of taking it back as a prelude to taking back our country, a prelude to taking back the destiny of America."

Political analyst Kevin Phillips said Dole's bid for the Republican presidential nomination to face President Bill Clinton in the November election was still very much alive because of his superior organization and financial resources.

But he faces an uphill fight against Buchanan and former Tennessee Governor Lamar Alexander, who came in third in New Hampshire and will try to portray Dole as a loser.

"Buchanan is still not the favorite," said Phillips. "There will be a counter-offensive by the Republican establishment, including all the Republican governors and big business, who will attempt to rally around Dole."

While the Republicans rip themselves apart, Clinton is unopposed for the Democratic nomination and currently leads all his prospective Republican challengers in the polls.

Phillips and several other analysts interviewed by Reuters doubted Buchanan could win the Republican nomination. The analysts said he is too divisive and past allegations - which he vehemently denies - that he is anti-women and antisemitic are certain to re-emerge with new force.

Jack Pitney, a former White House official in the Republican Reagan administration, now with Claremont McKenna College in California, said Buchanan's victory spelled one word for the Republican Party - "pain!"

While Buchanan's total opposition to abortion and his religious message are problematic for many centrist voters, the success of his anti-big business, anti-free trade message is perhaps an even greater problem for the Republican Party. That message is already causing some tremors in financial markets.

Never one to mince words, Buchanan says he would slap protectionist tariffs on imports from



Pat Buchanan supporters whoop it up Tuesday night in Manchester, New Hampshire, after their candidate won an upset though narrow victory over Republican Bob Dole.

China and Japan, rip up the North American Free Trade Agreement and withdraw from the World Trade Organization and many United Nations agencies.

He speaks of completely reshaping his party and uses the tough rhetoric of class envy. "We're going to change the Republican Party. We're going to make it working class. Working class, middle class folks don't have any voice in Washington," Buchanan said yesterday.

The previous day, he declared:

"The establishment in Washington is quaking in its boots... They hear the shouts of the peasants over the hill. All the peasants are coming with pitchforks. We're going over the top."

Duberstein, who was White House chief of staff in the Reagan administration, said he was appalled by such words. "His message of divisiveness and protectionism is totally at odds with the heritage of [former President] Ronald Reagan," he said.

David Brady, an analyst with

the conservative Hoover Institution close to the Dole campaign, said Buchanan probably had a ceiling of support among Republican voters of around 30 percent.

But Buchanan's strong performance was bad news for the Republicans, and he now has the potential to do well in some southern states like South Carolina, which votes on March 2. Religious conservatives are strong in South Carolina and textile mill workers are worried

about their jobs.

"What Buchanan does is he extends the race for several more weeks or months and pulls the Republican Party to the right," Brady said. "There will be a lot of people in the political center looking at the Republican Party with real distaste."

Steven Wayne of Georgetown University said the real winner was Clinton. "Buchanan is out of the mainstream and now he will drag Dole out of the mainstream as well," he said.

War tribunal to indict Bosnian Moslems

PARIS (AP) - The UN war crimes tribunal for former Yugoslavia is looking beyond Bosnia's Serbs and soon will indict the first Moslem suspects, its president said yesterday.

Antonio Cassese told reporters that the indictments against Moslem suspects would be handed down "in a few weeks." He did not say how many suspects would be charged or provide details about the atrocities.

Investigators working from 17 grainy photographs of alleged war crimes suspects and victims have been hampered by the poor quality of the photos, he said.

"There are many logistical and technical problems," said Cassese, visiting Paris and other European capitals to get more money for the tribunal.

The UN court, based in The Hague, has indicted 52 people - 45 Serbs and seven Croats. The Serbs include Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and his military chief, Gen. Ratko Mladic; but only one minor Bosnian Serb player, Dusan Tadic, is in custody.

From the start, the tribunal had said it also would examine allegations against Moslems. But its focus has been on alleged atrocities committed by the Serbs, and no Moslems have yet been indicted. Yesterday's announcement that Moslems definitely would be indicted was seen as an attempt to reassure the Bosnian Serbs that the tribunal won't overlook Moslem atrocities.

Iraqi defector faces uncertain future in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP) - Iraq said its most famous defector was welcome back as an "ordinary citizen." But abroad, critics yesterday questioned whether Saddam Hussein's son-in-law would be fully forgiven.

Iraq's opponents said the return from exile of Hussein Kamel Majid showed him to be a confused man who lacked any real political clout beyond his ties to the Iraqi ruler.

"The defector had talked of his escape last August as 'the flight of the eagles,' asked the Arab Times, an English-language daily in Saudi Arabia. "Should one now talk of 'the return of the chickens to the coop?'"

Majid, along with almost 30 fellow defectors, took a desert highway home from Jordan to Iraq on Tuesday, barely six months after defecting and vowing to topple Saddam.

The dramatic departure last August, seen as a major blow to Saddam, never threatened his iron rule.

Majid was a general who headed Iraq's weapons program, and his thorough knowledge of the country's armaments forced Iraq to increase cooperation with United Nations inspectors investigating the country's nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

But the inspectors have said Iraq has still not revealed all, and the country is still under comprehensive sanctions imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

In Baghdad, Iraqi television on Tuesday said the Revolutionary Command Council, which Saddam heads, "decided to approve his appeal and allow him to return to Iraq and deal with him as an ordinary citizen."

A leading newspaper, Al-Jamhouriya, echoed the report

yesterday morning, but there was no further word on where Majid was or if he had met with Saddam.

Another prominent defector said he doubted that all had been forgiven.

"I believe that [Majid] will be killed this year," said Waqif Samarra, Iraq's head of intelligence before he defected in 1994. He spoke to The Associated Press in Damascus.

Majid's return was apparently organized by his wife, Raghda, Saddam's eldest and once favorite daughter.

During their exile in Jordan, Raghda "played a big role in the contacts" with Saddam, said one source who was in contact with Majid when he was in Jordan.

"She used to call her father, often pleading repentance and begging him to allow her to return home," the source added.

World's oldest rap 'musician' celebrates 121st birthday

ARLES, France (AP) - The woman believed to be the world's oldest person marked her 121st birthday yesterday by celebrating her appearance on the rap music scene - an art form a century younger than she is.

At a southern France city hall, Jeanne Calment celebrated a birthday that requires 10 dozen plus one birthday candles. She is blind, nearly deaf and uses a wheelchair, but her mind and her wit are quite intact.

"I'm afraid of nothing, and I don't complain," she said. "I have only one wrinkle, and I'm sitting on it."

The Guinness Book of World Records lists Calment as the oldest living person whose birth date can be authenticated by reliable records.

There's a contender for the title - a former slave from Brazil who says she's 124. But because of doubts about Maria do Carmo Geronimo's birth certificate, record-keepers recognize only

Calment, who has astonished the world by recording a new rap CD.

Calment has become Arle's greatest attraction since Vincent Van Gogh, who spent a year here in 1888. She met him that year when he came to her uncle's shop to buy paints, and remembers him as "dirty, badly dressed and disagreeable."

Today a Paris production company releases "Time's Mistress." On the four-track CD, she recounts her memories against a musical background of rap, techno and farandole, a regional dance tune dating to the Middle Ages.

The proceeds will go toward the purchase of a minibus to take her neighbors at the Maison du Lac retirement home on outings to the seaside.

Calment claims the keys to long life are olive oil and Port wine. She gave up cigarettes last year, but her doctor says her abstinence is due to pride - she's too blind to light up herself and

she hates asking someone to do it for her.

At 85, she took up fencing lessons, and she was still riding a bike at 100. Before moving to the retirement home at age 110, she lived alone in her house in Arles.

"She has amazing resistance to illness, stress and depression," said Jean-Marie Robine, an epidemiologist and expert on aging who visits her often. "Nothing seems to get to her."

Judging by her demeanor Wednesday, she still loves a party.

"I dream, I think, I go over my life. I never get bored," Calment said.

And she's not afraid to die. "One day, I'll surely meet the good Lord. In the meantime, life will last as long as it lasts," she said. "Like everyone, I've known sad times, but life has smiled at me. I hope to die laughing. At any rate, I'll go without regrets. I've made the most of it."

Haiti police fire into Carnival crowd killing 2, injuring 50

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) - Jumpy policemen fired into a Carnival crowd after a man pulled out a gun near a float yesterday, creating a panic in which two people were killed and more than 50 injured.

It was unclear yesterday who shot the fatal bullets. Witnesses said armed civilians were firing at police, and six officers were among the injured.

Haitian state television was broadcasting live the end of the three-day Carnival yesterday morning when shots suddenly rang out.

One man fell to the ground, bleeding heavily, a wounded woman was led away and hundreds of screaming people were seen fleeing before the television station dimmed the scene.

In a separate shooting, a policeman was wounded near a hospital. Tropic FM radio reported. It was unclear if the shootings were related.

The incidents raise new fears about security in Haiti only three weeks after new President Rene Preval was inaugurated and eight days before the United Nations' peacekeeping mandate expires.

Haitian intelligence and other sources said the shootings might involve infighting in Haiti's troubled new security force.

The force consists of officers trained at a new US-funded academy and police and army officers who served under the former military government.

Metropolitan Police Commissioner Pierre Michel Lubin said only. "The shooting began when police tried to arrest an armed civilian."

Christie's 'The Mousetrap' reaches 18,000th milestone

LONDON (Reuter) - Agatha Christie's murder mystery 'The Mousetrap' the world's longest-running play, passes another theatrical milestone today with its 18,000th performance.

The whodunit, which opened in November 1952 when Churchill was prime minister and Stalin ruled Russia, shows no signs of folding and ranks alongside The Tower of London and Westminster Abbey as one of Britain's perennial tourist attractions.

The play, which opened with future Oscar winner Richard Attenborough as its first star, has gone through more than 400 actors

and actresses. They even have their own exclusive club with a special tie and silver pendant.

Its proud producer Sir Peter Saunders has said of the ever-green murder mystery: "The play is like a snowball rolling down the slopes. It seems to be self-perpetuating."

One of his proudest moments was playing host to Winston Churchill, who guessed who the killer was during the interval.

At the end of each performance, the killer steps forward and, after the applause dies down, tells the audience: "Don't forget we are all partners in crime. Please keep the

secret locked in your hearts."

Among its die-hard fans is Prime Minister John Major, who said: "I look forward to my grandchildren coming to see it."

Agatha Christie, who gave the play to her grandson as a ninth birthday present, once said of her greatest hit: "It is the sort of play you can take anyone to. It is not really frightening. It is not really horrible."

Christie, one of the world's most famous mystery writers, died in 1986. 'The Mousetrap' has been translated into 23 languages and seen in more than 40 countries.

Film rights for the play, originally written as a radio play at the request of the late Queen Mary to mark her 80th birthday, have been sold but a film cannot be made until six months after the play closes.

'The Mousetrap' is now in its 44th year.

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Scientists create new element 112

DARMSTADT, Germany (AP) - Scientists at the Heavy Ion Research Center in Darmstadt said yesterday that they have created element 112, their third new element in 16 months.

Research team leader Peter Armbruster said the new element was created by smashing zinc atoms into lead atoms with the help of a universal linear accelerator, also called Unilac.

The combination of lead, with 82 protons, and Zinc, with 30, created the new element, which carries the designation 112 for the number of protons it contains.

Due to its weight, element 112

was unstable and only had a lifetime of a thousandths of a second, said Hans Specht, the research center's chief. It was created February 9 at 10:37 p.m., but was not announced until yesterday.

Until the atomic age, uranium was believed to be the heaviest element with 92 protons.

Atomic physicists believe the entire material world of the universe comprises a maximum of 200 elements.

Discovering how many elements actually exist has been a continual challenge to scientists, because it sheds light on how the universe evolved and the makeup

of atoms.

The Darmstadt center produced elements 107, 108, and 109 in the early 1980s. Element 110 was created November 18, 1994, and element 111 December 8 the same year.

All of the six elements discovered by the Darmstadt center are unstable under the natural conditions on earth. However, the team is striving to reach element 114, which they hope will have a firm, stabilized composition.

"With the creation of element 112 we've moved a long way in the search for element 114," Armbruster said.

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Not all car models stay the same

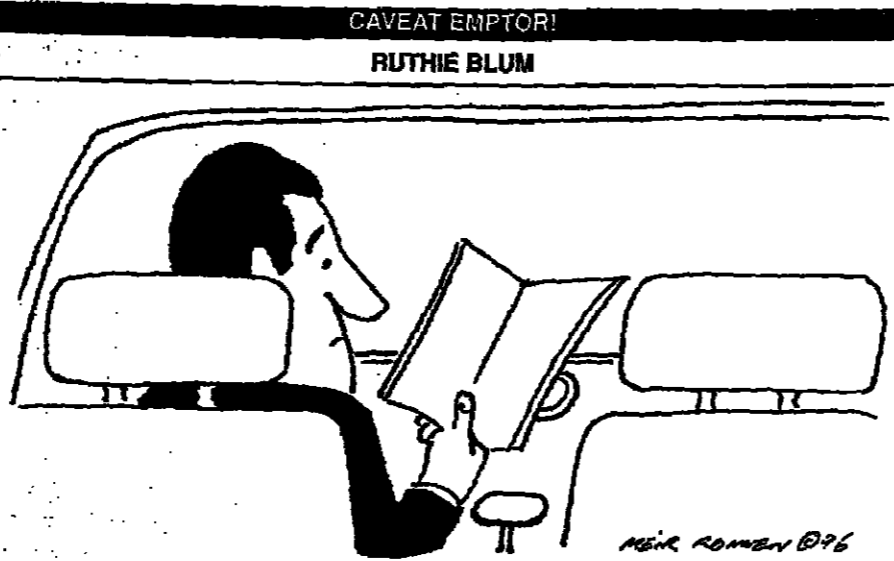
When purchasing a new automobile from an importer, beware of discrepancies between previous models and their updated version.

J.G. ordered a Lantis 1996 from the Haifa branch of Delek Motors. Israel's Mazda representative. The car he bought was on display in the showroom for his examination, and there was a colorful brochure describing the vehicle.

What was not made clear to him was that the written material he was studying referred to the 1995 model. Through subsequent research revealed that an addendum listing minor alterations between the 1996 Lantis and its predecessor in fact does exist, and is normally inserted into the brochures, this particular agent had not received it.

According to the agent who made the sale, J.G. was given a detailed verbal explanation - both prior to purchase and once the car had actually been given to him - along with the operation manual. The latter, it turned out, was also a 1995 publication.

J.G. assumed his new car was equipped with a warning light for fuel - a feature to which he had grown accustomed in his previous car, a 1976 Mercedes, and one which existed in the 1995 Lantis. Unbeknownst to him, this warning light was one of the features discontinued in the new Lantis. (Apparently, Delek Motors considers it to be such a negligible gadget that its discontinuation does not appear on the addendum, a copy of which I have since obtained. Other items, such as "illumination for cigarette lighter" and "black stripe on the underside of the back fender" do appear, however.)



When J.G. complained, his attention was called to a paragraph at the foot of the "technical specification" insert, which states: "The information in this brochure is for international use... the data and features appearing do not necessarily coincide with those of the models sold in Israel. Both Mazda corporation in Japan and Delek Motors Ltd. reserve the right to make changes in the technical specifications, automobile accessories or in this brochure, for whatever reason, at any time, and without advance notice."

It is thus doubtful whether J.G. would be awarded compensation for his disappointment. Nevertheless, he might have reconsidered buying this particular car had he known about its missing fuel light. Delek Motors' Jerusalem agent responded by saying that all kinds of changes are made in Japan. "We inform the customers of these changes, though some are so minor that it wouldn't occur to us to announce them. Furthermore, some clients enter the showroom after their mind is already made up about buying a certain car. If such a client sits down and says decisively that he wants to order a car, it seems pointless to force a sales pitch on him."

If you are considering buying a new car from Delek Motors or any other importer - learn from J.G.'s experience. Be as specific

The scents of spring

FLAIR GREER FAY CASHMAN

One of the first signs of spring here is the burst of almond blossom lining intercity highways.

Those creatures of the concrete jungle who neither live in garden suburbs nor pass through rural areas, however, become aware of spring when surveying the perfume counters at their local pharmacies or department stores.

The soft pastel hues of the packaging are important indicators that winter is now behind us. Whereas there was a preponderance of strong, bright reds and yellows in the packaging of winter fragrances and cosmetics, the spring/summer tones are light, gentle and unaggressive.

Fragrances and cosmetics are increasingly becoming part of the corporate fashion image. Nearly all the leading fashion houses in France, Italy, Germany and the US have given their names to perfumes, and many have also branched out into cosmetics.

The only local company to go all out in this respect is Castro, which in addition to its fragrance, has a full range of skin care and make-up products.

Shoshana Ben-Zur has also made a tentative start in this direction, but has not made as forceful an impact because her PR and advertising budgets are considerably lower than those of Castro. In addition, Castro has many more retail outlets, where its cosmetics are displayed alongside its clothing collections.

Of the international fragrance labels, some of the first to hit the Israeli market this season include Bvlgari, Escada Acte 2 and Gucci Accenti in respective packaging of ivory, delicate yellow and sun-rose pink.

It's unfair to either recommend or denigrate a perfume, because its effect is so dependent on the

body chemicals of the person wearing it. The most exotic and expensive formula could smell like a million dollars on one person and exude a totally rancid odor on another. Conversely, what might generally be described as a cheap perfume may, without effort, upgrade itself if it comes into contact with the right body chemicals.

Thus I can refer to the above-mentioned products only in respect to myself. Of the three, Bvlgari - with its refined bouquet of delicately sensual aromas of Sambac jasmine tea, mimosa of grasse, bergamot and orange blossom - appeal most to my olfactory senses.

Escada Acte 2, with its more fruity aroma, derived from a more unusual combination of peony, cinnamon and star aniseed, is a little too bold for my taste, but its arrogance may be perfect for a business executive who wants to leave her impression in the air - in addition to asserting herself through her manner of speech, style of dress and body language.

Gucci Accenti is the most fragile of the trio - almost a secretive scent, which lingers pleasantly on the skin, but doesn't waft in front or behind. It's for the woman who wants to know that she smells good, but who doesn't want to make a statement via her perfume.

Of the three, Bvlgari is the most expensive at NIS 374 for 100 ml of eau de parfum, NIS 238 for 50 ml and NIS 187 for 30 ml. The same volumes of Gucci Accenti eau de toilette are priced at NIS 279, NIS 185 and NIS 129, while Escada Acte 2 eau de parfum sells for NIS 298, NIS 219 and NIS 149.

These prices are appreciably lower than those charged for Escada's perfume essence which retails at NIS 379 for 15 ml.

The right way home made easy

COMPUTER navigational systems for cars have been available for several years, but they are separate screens in boxes that attach to the dashboard.

This spring, Acura will introduce the first in-dash system on its new luxury sedan, the Acura RL. It will be available only in California this year but is expected to be on-line for the East Coast in 1997.

The Acura Navigation System offers on-screen guidance to destinations on a 15-centimeter touch screen with a series of control buttons or with voice instructions.

In response to a route chosen, a computerized voice might say, "Proceed to onramp of the 110 north" or "in one-half mile, exit freeway on the right."

(Los Angeles Times)

No-shows pay the price

MAKING restaurant reservations for a special occasion? If so, you better show up or you may have to pay a price.

With the blessing of a credit-card company, some fancy restaurants in New York are fining customers who shirk off confirmed reservations.

Across the city, maitre d's are requiring customers to make their reservations with a credit card, and pay as much as \$25 a head if they don't then show up.

The penalty, used most often on holidays, could add up to credit-card charges of \$100 for a phantom party of four, or \$150 for an empty table for six.

A mere reservation over the phone just isn't good enough anymore, as restaurateurs say they mean business. Promises must be backed up by hard plastic.

"It's a policy that's spreading, and it's good for us," said Stuart Sommerstein, owner of Water's Edge restaurant in Queens.

"Hotels do it all the time. Why shouldn't restaurants do it, too?" he asked. "No-shows are aggravating, particularly when we're sold out and it's a large party." Many restaurants have resisted the trend to penalize no-shows, but such penalties are growing because American Express last November gave its blessing to the practice.

American Express is backing up

restaurants that fine no-shows by just saying "No" to customers who call to dispute the charges.

"What we're trying to find is a solution to what clearly is a problem in the restaurant industry," said American Express general manager Lloyd Wirshba.

Wirshba described the program as an incentive for customers to stick to their word, saying that only a small fraction of consumers has been penalized so far.

Other credit-card companies weigh each individual case when customers call to dispute the charges.

At Layla, in Manhattan, for example, the \$25-a-head hit is reserved for parties of six or more.

But the Union Square Cafe, for its part, has chosen to work harder to confirm reservations, instead of charging people for not honoring them.

The restaurant had a big no-show on Mother's Day, so it may roll out the policy just for that day, said Paul Bolles-Beaven, the managing partner there.

"We've been hesitant to charge no-shows," he said. "It's not that we haven't been plagued by no-shows - we have. But penalties are not perceived by our restaurant to be hospitable."

"We wonder how many customers we'd lose when a charge shows up on their credit card." (Newsday)



A mere reservation over the phone just isn't good enough anymore - many upscale American restaurants require no-shows to pay a penalty. (Mike Honan)

A guide to getting into the politically correct Guinness record book

Stefan Sigmond recently placed his life, limbs and lungs on the line for 15 words of fame.

By snuffing 800 cigarettes into a funnel and puffing them through a tube.

By leaping into a lake from a 135-foot cliff.

By chilling Cool Hand Luke and gorging 29 hard-boiled eggs in four minutes.

But what Sigmond had here was a failure to communicate with the Guinness Book of World Records. Had the 29-year-old man just asked in advance of his smoking, leaping and gulping, editors would have told the risky Romanian to go jump into a lake. Figuratively.

For in this era of elevated consciousness, their 40-year-old compendium of dubious and danger-

ous doings no longer has space for death defiance by amateurs, the politically incorrect or the morally indefensible.

Such as smoking. "Not environmentally friendly," says Carole Jones, speaking from Guinness's suburban London office.

Such as gluttony. "Taken out in 1990," Jones continues. "Even how many pancakes can be eaten in a minute can be quite dangerous to the individual. Also, with so many people starving in the world, it's not really diplomatic."

Such as life-threatening activities. "We just don't want to encourage records that are gratuitously dangerous," says Peter Matthews, consultant editor for Guinness. "Having said that, we do list the record of a Russian who fell out of an airplane without a parachute at 35,000 [feet] and lived."

"We really don't think that it is something a person would do voluntarily." But climbers conquer Mount Everest voluntarily. Nobody forces astronauts to walk in space. Their records are listed, by Guinness.

"True," Matthews agrees. "Yet these are not things for the ordinary bloke to have a go at." Nor are ordinary blokes likely to challenge Monsieur Mangetout, the Frenchman with a stomach doubling as a junkyard. Since 1966 he has eaten - as part of an iron-rich diet of two pounds a day - 10 bicycles, seven TV sets, six chandeliers, a shopping cart, a computer and a low-calorie Cessna. Also one coffin, handles and all. Empty.

Nor do we envy "Sparkey" Sullivan. That's Roy Sullivan, the former Virginia park ranger struck

by lightning seven times. Sullivan committed suicide in 1983 after apparently being smitten by love and striking out.

These are classics among the 15,000 oddballs, true achievers, accidental adventurers, acts of God and luck of the devil currently accepted as Guinness records.

Of equal interest are those who have not made the book. Who could forget salesman Mel Lastman, the Willy Loman of North York, Ontario? Last year, he journeyed into the Canadian Arctic and became the first drummer to sell a refrigerator to an Eskimo.

Harrod Clark drew one after covering his van with 1,705 cameras.

The El Cerrito, California, filmmaker spent \$10,000 and one year building a Kodak moment that

wasn't.

"Then there was the man who wrote to say that he hadn't spoken to his wife in 47 years," Jones recalls. Presumably, his "I do" was conversation enough.

Matthews knows there is a deadly seduction attached to his Guinness book. A boy was crushed to death in Germany last year when a mass tug-of-war went awry. A Texan died with his boots on after chug-a-lugging half a gallon of bourbon.

Their intentions, Matthews says, were not presented in advance to Guinness representatives. Had they done so, the requests would have been denied.

So, he says, follow the rules: - Read the book and go after existing records. Such as the number of gallstones (23,530) removed during a single surgery

or the highest mileage (1,442,044 miles - about 2,307,000 kilometers - by a Volkswagen Beetle still pattering around Pasadena, California) by one vehicle.

- Check with Guinness two months in advance for guidelines and to make sure a published record hasn't changed.

- Produce documentation, newspaper clippings, witness statements for all stages.

Matthews isn't sure why billions of jumpers and jugglers, the world's venom milkers and chicken pluckers, the Estonian pumpkin growers and Vermont pie bakers, lust for a Guinness mention.

Possibly because the book is there.

Matthews does know that his work trends a million fine lines crossing myriad gray and treacherous areas. Gluttony remains an

unacceptable entry, but he admits that someone "eating 2,444 baked beans one at a time with a cocktail stick in 20 minutes is quite fun."

He's pulled the plug on hare-brained feats, but Guinness recently embraced bungee jumping "because it is well-known and worldwide and we need to be there." With limits.

"Somebody might take a 105-year-old out of a nursing home, tie on a bungee cord and push her over a cliff," Matthews says. "I really don't think I want to encourage that." It is worth noting that the Guinness book is a high achiever rich with its own records. More than 77 million copies have sold, making it the world's best-selling copyrighted book.

And it is believed to be the volume stolen most from public libraries. (Los Angeles Times)

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Easy peace

LARRY DERFNER

Like Americans, Israelis want to "have it all." Like American politicians, Shimon Peres and Bibi Netanyahu are telling the voters that it's no problem. Peres will give us peace, and we won't have to give up the tiniest part of Jerusalem. Netanyahu will do better - he'll give us peace, and not only will we keep all of Jerusalem, we'll keep all 144 settlements, and the Palestinians will get no more land and no state.

If any of them resort to terror, the IDF will wipe them out, come home, and that will be the end of it. Who would have thought the Israeli-Palestinian conflict could be solved so painlessly? Whoever wins, Peres or Netanyahu, we can't lose. As they say, this election is going to be the most fateful in Israel's history. Yet in their campaigns, both Peres and Netanyahu are either lying to us, or they believe their own pipe dreams. On election day, Israel is going to determine its destiny with the Palestinians. You would hardly know from the candidates that the Palestinians have a few ideas of their own about what that destiny should be. There isn't a single Palestinian of any political consequence, who's ready to make peace with Israel unless his people get a state with a capital in East Jerusalem. This is a "red-line" issue for

Either Peres and Netanyahu are both lying to us or they believe their own pipe dreams

them, meaning they would rather fight forever than concede on it. I hope they will be flexible on the boundaries of the state and capital - otherwise we'll never reach agreement - but the basic principle for them is non-negotiable. And it doesn't matter if we Israelis just stand firm - the Palestinians are serious. They are nationalists with very strong feelings about Jerusalem. They didn't make this all up just to spite us. But Peres and his ministers keep swearing that Jerusalem is our eternally indivisible capital, ours alone, while assuring us that peace is "inevitable," "irreversible."

For Netanyahu, the problem is that we've been too conciliatory; the trick is to give the Palestinians less. Let them have their cities, but let them know that wherever they look up, they will see shining Jewish settlements on the hills, expanding freely. And let them know that the ultimate power in the land will always be Israelis with guns. Then, in despair, they'll make peace.

THIS IS IMBECILIC. But this is the national debate over our future. It's such a relief, isn't it? Both sides will go forward with the peace process, the only question is which one will get us the better deal. There doesn't seem to be much difference between them anymore. But there is, because this peace process has a long way to go. Giving up Gaza and Jenin was the easy part. All the "painful concessions" are still ahead of us. We don't have to make them. We can keep every settlement and every inch of Jerusalem; we just can't have peace too.

We have to choose. In that choice lies the difference between Peres and Netanyahu. Peres believes in this peace process. When the time comes, I think he will decide it is worth more than eternal Israeli sovereignty over Shuafat refugee camp, and over the other East Jerusalem neighborhoods where 170,000 Arabs live and, hardly any few cares to visit.

Netanyahu won't get that far. For him, this peace process is a catastrophe. At the first opportunity, he will let it collapse. He'll say nothing but no to Arafat, and from then on split the IDF to do his talking. As Netanyahu's more candid than ego, MK Itzhak Hanehgi, put it last year, "We're talking about the use of brutal force to subvert a peace. This is the hard choice we face. Less Israel, less Jerusalem and a real chance for peace, or all of Israel and a guarantee of no peace."

But Peres and Netanyahu won't tell us this because we don't want to hear about hard choices; we want to have it all. After the election, I'm afraid the Palestinians will remind us that it's one or the other.

The writer is a freelance journalist living in Tel Aviv.



News item: David Levy names new party "Geshet" (Bridge)

The great PLO takeover

Jaffa oranges are famous everywhere as an Israeli product. Now Jaffa itself is being bought.

Local Arab businessmen, aided by Jews, have purchased scores of apartments and other property there. They continue trying aggressively to persuade owners there to sell at above-market prices. Some of the money is local. Most comes from European front organizations. One recent major property sale was financed from Italy. It is believed that Saudi Arabian money as well as funds siphoned off from donor countries to Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority are used for this purpose.

Jewish officials are aware of this effort to begin converting Jaffa into a predominantly Arab area. But, as supporters of the Oslo accords, they believe it is welcome, as it demonstrates that "peaceful coexistence" can exist in a new-style Middle East. In 1948, Jaffa Arabs began firing into Tel Aviv even before the Arab armies invaded Israel. Jews were killed in the Carmel Market and surrounding areas. From the Hassan Bek mosque snipers picked off Tel Aviv citizens at their leisure.

Urged to leave their homes in April 1948 by their own leaders, nearly all did so. They were told: "When the Jews are wiped out you can live in the choicest Tel Aviv homes." Even before the war was over, "liberal" Israelis urged Ben-Gurion to allow the Jaffa Arabs to return to their homes. "No!" said Ben-Gurion. "They started the war. They will pay for it."

Like the French Bourbons, there are those who never learn, and never forget. When the Old City of Jerusalem was recaptured in 1967, mayor Teddy Kolek encouraged Arabs occupying the Jewish Quarter to return, despite captured Jordanian Legion documents detailing orders to liquidate the Jews. They returned in their tens of thousands, laying the foundation of many of the capital's present-day problems. Another man as blinkered as Ben-Gurion was Tel Aviv mayor Shlomo Lahat. He encouraged the restoration of that sniper's paradise, the Hassan Bek mosque, close to the Dan Panorama hotel. Naturally, Jaffa isn't the only Arab takeover target. A PLO-controlled Palestinian information institute working quite openly in Jerusalem is encouraging not only local Arabs but also others worldwide to register their claims to property their families might have

URI DAN DENNIS EISENBERG

owned in many of the city's areas, in places like Baka, Katamon and Abu Tor, as well as in downtown Jerusalem. For months past, Jerusalemites have noticed Arabs driving around Jewish areas, taking copious notes and drawing plans of buildings, houses and apartment blocks. One Arab, challenged by a citizen who feared he might be a burglar on the prowl, drove off without explanation. Understandably, a vexed Shimon Peres nearly jumped out of his skin to shout: "Provocation!" when Binayim Netanyahu and Mayor Ehud Olmert asserted that he is secretly negotiating to divide Jerusalem again. Yet his "peace partners" quite openly contradict him. Three weeks ago Abu Zayad, a

Arabs are buying up Jaffa like the famous oranges. Also on the list: west Jerusalem

senior Palestinian official said, "We have been meeting with Israeli officials here and abroad for many months. Jerusalem is the subject of discussion. We are not talking about social gatherings. [The meetings] are fruitful and help set the stage for formal talks." Earlier this month Hanan Ashrawi said on international TV: "It's inconceivable that only one sovereign power controls Jerusalem. Jerusalem is and must be the capital of the future Palestinian state." This week a senior member of the Palestinian Council said in the Palestinian paper *Al-Quds*: "It's not only impossible to eradicate the PLO Covenant, but our future government will have its seat in Jerusalem. We have transformed our battle from one of shooting to one of words. The same battle goes on until we establish our Palestinian state." This comment was allowed by the Israeli censor. Nobody in the government denied it. ONE can understand Peres's sensitivity. Negotiations have been taking place with Arafat's men via Yossi Beilin. To distance the pre-

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The Buchanan phenomenon

PATRICK Buchanan is a "respectable" American antisemite in the classic mold. His spiritual ancestors are Charles Lindbergh and Henry Ford who, like him, were not only distinguished personalities in their fields but folk heroes. Buchanan is a folk hero of our time - a media star. What makes the Buchanan phenomenon particularly sobering is that - unlike his predecessors - he knows where antisemitism can lead. This is perhaps why Buchanan, too sophisticated to deny the history of the Holocaust, has devoted much of his time and energy to deriding its scope and meaning. A dedicated defender of Nazi war criminals, he has called the testimonies of Holocaust survivors "group fantasies of martyrdom and heroics," and claimed that the gassings in Treblinka could not have killed anyone because "diesel fuel does not emit enough carbon monoxide to kill anybody."

His most offensive foray into raw antisemitism occurred during the weeks preceding the Gulf War. Joining American leftists who found nothing objectionable in Saddam Hussein's occupation of Kuwait, Buchanan insisted the US had no business fighting the Iraqi dictator. But unlike most other critics of American intervention, he blamed "the Jews" for leading the US into what he deemed an unnecessary and costly war. "There are only two groups beating the drums for war in the Middle East: the Israeli defense ministry and its amen corner in the US," he said.

Worse, he selectively listed only names like Kissinger, Rosenthal, Perle and Krauthammer as those who were "goading" America into war, while those who would die on the battlefield as a result of their machinations would be "kids with names like McAllister, Murphy, Gonzales and Leroy Brown."

It was a charge patterned after the Nazi libels before World War II, which portrayed the Jews as political manipulators who let Gentiles die for them. And, like Nazi propagandists, Buchanan was fazed neither by the lie's magnitude nor its absurdity.

Considering the reputation he has established, it is hardly surprising Buchanan attracts bigots of all stripes: white supremacists, misogynists, homophobes, xenophobes and antisemites. Two members of his campaign staff have had to suspend themselves when found to be associated with extremist groups. And, as *The Jerusalem Post* revealed on Sunday, his campaign's official Internet site boasts articles which charge Hillary Clinton with being a Mossad agent and blame the Mossad for the death of President Bill Clinton's aide Vince Foster.

Yet Buchanan is decidedly different from the redneck bigots and flakes who made presiden-

tial bids in the past. He is a sophisticated Washington insider, a former speech writer for presidents Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan, and a man who does not lie when he says that some of his best friends are Jews.

Most significantly, unlike the provincial rabble-rousers who pepper the US, he is a household name. This is due mainly to the clever exploitation of his position as television and radio commentator. As *New York Times* columnist A.M. Rosenthal pointed out last Friday, even though he has been a declared presidential candidate for six years, "CNN allowed him to appear as a daily regular on *Crossfire* and *The Capital Gang*." Another show, *The McLaughlin Group*, gave him a weekly appearance, and "everywhere he appeared - regular or guest - TV masqueraded him as a journalist. They knew better. He was not a journalist but a candidate for the presidency...The creation of Mr. Buchanan as a national figure was committed by news people."

It would be unrealistic to attach too much importance to his win in the New Hampshire primary yesterday. He garnered the support of a little more than a quarter of the electorate, and his coming in first was made possible only by the splitting of the moderate vote. The combined vote of front-runner Robert Dole and former Tennessee governor Lamar Alexander, both moderates, was more than 50 percent. Nor is there any chance that Buchanan will capture the Republican nomination.

Yet it would be wrong to dismiss the Buchanan phenomenon as an expression of frustration and protest. As a representative of the increasingly acceptable fascist trend in the world, he probably represents a solid 15 percent of the American population - a demographic slice similar to that which neo-fascist parties in France, Russia and Italy represent. For now, they are still a fringe movement. But if Buchanan gains momentum in the primaries, the Republican nominating convention will not be able to ignore his followers' platform demands. Nor can anyone guess how a rising crime rate, drug proliferation, massive illegal immigration, unemployment, or a socio-economic crisis caused by revolutionary technology will affect his fortunes four years from now.

Above all, the rise of neo-fascist movements indicates that hyper-optimistic prognostications about "the end of history" and the disappearance of war as an instrument of policy may be dangerously premature. Dreaming about a New Middle East may be a pleasant preoccupation. But for now, it seems that the old monsters of bigotry, xenophobia and demagoguery are still very much alive, even in the greatest democracy on earth.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ONE PEOPLE

Sir, - The article by Larry Derfner ("Euzpa!" - January 28) commenting on A.B. Yehoshua's ranting presentation at the World Jewish Congress Global Assembly was sad - yes, but the article and Yehoshua's anger. It is obvious that not every Jew in the world can or wants to live in Israel. But most Jews do feel a family connection to their brothers and sisters in the Land. And like in any family situation, when anyone is in need, the members who can will extend a helping hand. When the need no longer exists, the receiver will let the giver know with a thank you, and that's that. So, Mr. Derfner, suppose you eliminate this "them and us" thinking and start considering Jews throughout the world as an entity. Both Derfner and Yehoshua might feel much better if their anger and bitterness were channeled elsewhere and they would realize we are all one people, no matter where we reside.

INGEBORG HIRSCHHORN
Ra'anana (St. Paul, Minn.)

JEWES FROM ARAB LANDS

Sir, - Having founded and chaired the Jews of Arab Lands Committee of the British Zionist Federation 20 years ago, I support the case for proper attention to be paid to the position and claims of these Jewish communities as presented in Malka H. Shulewitz's article of January 26, "Potential political card." It is not only that these Jews were compelled to leave the countries where they had been settled many centuries before the Arab invasion, but since 1949, when the majority left for Israel and a large number to the West, the property of these communities, individual, communal and religious, was confiscated by various Arab governments. The Jews have legitimate claims for restitution or compensation to be presented in the current peace process when the issue of refugees is discussed. PERCY GOURGEY
Jerusalem (Twickenham, Middx.)

ARZA'S SUPPORT FOR PEACE

Sir, - Rabbi David Forman implies that the principle of religious pluralism is the Reform movement's sole preoccupation ("The impression of 'peace passivity,'" February 9). I led the Arza group of 55 rabbis which met with Haim Ramon. Prior to our arrival in Israel, we met with Haim Ramon, Amr Mussa and Osama el-Baz in Cairo. In Israel, we also met with Shimon Peres and Binayim Netanyahu. In all cases, we emphasized that the primary purpose of our visit was to give strong and public support for the peace process. Our visit to Gaza the day before the Palestinian elections was intended to convey our backing of the Oslo accords.

In Israel too, I publicly stated to Peres, Netanyahu and Ramon that the Reform movement would continue to support the peace process, irrespective of any approach these leaders would take on issues of religion and state. This is hardly the liberal "religious blackmail," which Rabbi Forman implies.

How would Rabbi Forman have wanted us to respond to Haim Ramon? After he gratuitously and with breathtaking historical revisionism accused the Reform movement of responsibility for the war in Lebanon - should we have waved off the interior minister's wild imagination as the necessary price for peace? How should we respond to widespread reports that Prime Minister Peres is prepared to make major anti-democratic concessions to Orthodox parties in exchange for their political support? Should we shrug it off as the necessary price for peace?

Is democracy inconsistent with peace? The past three years have demonstrated that it is possible to engage in peace-making without surrendering to ultra-Orthodox political blackmail. We should avoid characterizing those who are unwilling to pay the price of heredit demands, as, by definition, doing damage to the peace process. Let us not confuse the arsonist with the fireman. RABBI AMMIEL HIRSCH, Executive Director, Arza, New York.

THE SUNDAY SUPPLEMENT

Sir, - Several of your readers have complained that the Sunday supplement *American Outlook* is not useful to people here because it is too specifically American. They are wrong. The Sunday supplement is essential to people living here. The US is the most powerful nation in the world and Israel's most vital friend. It is also a complex and continuously evolving entity. Whether the US is viewed as a valued ally or with invidious disdain, it is to our advantage to understand the American political, economic and social arrangements and their concomitant problems. A mature working relationship between allies requires realistic expectations and an understanding of inherent limitations. The Sunday supplement helps provide this. I would be willing to forgo the comics (perhaps except *Peanuts* and *Doomsburg*) in order to have more space for additional substantive material. MURIEL MOULTON
Kiryat Tivon.

CYCLING LAWS

Sir, - I refer to L. Braverman's letter of January 24, "Cycling at night," in which he claims that "never once have I seen anything about compulsory headlamps at night." May I point out that for years already, there is a law in existence according to which it is obligatory for bicycles to be lit at night and at any time when vision is poor. Bicycles must have a fixed white light in front and a red one in the back, and also various kinds of reflectors. Every child in fourth grade receives instructions to this effect. This law has existed for a long time and it is a pity that your reader has never seen anything about it. Of course, it is up to the police to enforce the law according to its priorities, but the involvement of parents, friends and family is also important. DR. DAN LINK, Deputy Director, Road Safety Administration, Jerusalem.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



You think your job stinks? Think of Bill Fraser (above), the city manager of Montpelier, Vermont, who left his fancy office to be a judge in the Rotten Sneaker Contest. He's getting a close-up look at the ratty pair owned by Peter Poray, 14, of Eagle River, Alaska. The winner, judged to have the rotteness, smelliest sneakers in America, won, among other prizes, a new pair of shoes. (AP)

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TRAVELER

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1996

A NEW VANTAGE POINT Experiencing the Grand Canyon's West Rim



Photo by Susan Bayer Ward

There are no chattering crowds, view-blocking buildings, or even guardrails here to clutter the view from Guano Point down into Lower Granite Gorge.

By Susan Bayer Ward

Arizona—After I returned from an exciting adventure at the Grand Canyon's West Rim, a friend asked, "The West Rim?" The much developed South Rim, and the popular but less developed North Rim, have attracted growing hordes of tourists since the turn of the century when the railroad connected the outside world to the South Rim. But the West Rim? "I didn't know you could visit the West Rim," he continued. Rather than take offense, I informed my friend that until recently there was no way to tour the far west reaches of this great natural wonder.

It is the savvy Hualapai who are slowly and carefully developing the Grand Canyon's West Rim for tourism.

Today, good roads, as well as a resuscitated railway, and a small airport make this end of the Grand Canyon easily accessible. (Four million people a year crowd in for a visit.) There is also a plenitude of places to stay and dine. The canyon's west end sprawls amidst wild, rugged terrain in northwest Arizona, 80 miles north of Kingman. Some nice viewpoints are located along this rim's southern expanse which forms the northern border of the 997,000-acre, U-shaped Hualapai (pronounced "wall-ab-pie") Indian Reservation. It is the savvy Hualapai who are slowly and carefully developing the Grand Canyon's West Rim for tourism. At the moment there are only

two major viewpoints one can visit. The ride, however, is worth it. It's an adventure in itself. The Hualapai have many plans for the future including already running one- and two-day river rafting trips from a put in point below the rim to Pearce Ferry located on Lake Mead. The tribe's accessibility to the Colorado River is a unique feature about their "patch" of the Grand Canyon. In fact, many river-running outfitters who start their trips 230 miles east at Lees Ferry take advantage of the Diamond Creek Road access and use it as their west-end take-out point. Other features include a small casino, a legendary "bat gold" tower, catered rim-side barbecue lunches and an airstrip much used by tour operators out of Las Vegas (120 miles west) who fly in tourists for day trips.

I first got an idea of where the majority of these fly-in groups hailed from when I entered the simple air terminal-cum-casino building. All of the signage was in English and Chinese!

I asked my Hualapai guide, Honga, about this. "We often handle 400 people a day here, and many of them are from Taiwan. In fact," he scratched his head in some wonder, "we all thought Taiwan was a little island. But they just keep coming and coming." Evidently, Taiwanese adore the American West and after settling into luxury accommodations in razzle-dazzle Las Vegas, they yearn for open spaces. They flock to the nearby West Rim to tour, enjoy a lunch served up at the second viewpoint, and do a little gambling before they fly, or bus, back to Las Vegas. Single drive-ins will surely become more numerous as the West Rim access becomes bet-

Continued on page 2



Photo by Susan Bayer Ward

Our guide Honga, wearing the traditional dress of the Spider Clan, stands atop a jutting rock at Guano Point.

'Fatah stormtroopers active in capital'

JERUSALEM Mayor and Likud MK Ehud Olmert yesterday accused the police of being inactive in eastern Jerusalem, adding the resulting vacuum had been filled by "divisions of scores of Fatah stormtroopers wandering around [eastern] Jerusalem and the [Old City] markets, with identity tags clearly showing to whom they belong. This is the nucleus of a Palestinian Police unit they're preparing in Jerusalem."

Speaking to reporters at the Knesset, Olmert also repeated his claim that Jibril Rajoub's Palestinian preventive security force is also openly operating in the capital.

"Nobody is saying the government intends to divide Jerusalem but it must be judged by what's

LIAT COLLINS

happening on the ground," Olmert said. "This is a leadership which has lost its ability to say 'no.'"

Olmert said in meetings he had as mayor with Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal, the minister had been told the Palestinian Authority is deepening its penetration in eastern Jerusalem, but Shahal had said he could not act without evidence that would stand up in court. He also said Shahal had promised to close Orient House several times in the past. Olmert also repeated his stand that independent advisers had said such a closure would not affect the peace process. He said the government could not avoid discussing Jerusalem's status, as it is

required to do so by a clause in the Oslo Accords, "but they might ask to put the discussions off until after the elections."

Police sources strongly denied Olmert's allegations that Palestinian police or quasi-police units were operating in the Old City. The mayor may have mistaken Wafk guards and scouts helping with crowd control during Ramadan for Palestinian policemen, the sources said. Palestinian newspapers have reported in recent days that Fatah activists also organized civil guard units in the Old City to help with crowd control during Ramadan, but there activity has been barely noticeable, the sources said.

Bill Hutman contributed to this report.



Gerer Rebbe Pinhas Menachem Alter arrives at yesterday's meeting of Agudat Yisrael's Council of sages.

(Brian Hendler)

Committee on settlements to meet soon - Peres

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres said the ministerial committee on settlements, scheduled to meet yesterday but canceled at the last minute, will meet "soon," according to Minister without Portfolio Yehuda Amital.

Amital met with Peres yesterday to voice his protest at the cancellation of the meeting, which was to discuss plans to build more than 6,000 housing units in Gush Etzion, Ma'aleh Adumim, Givat Ze'ev, Betar, and Kiryat Sefer. "This government, like the previous one under Rabin, is obligated to ensure the natural development of the settlements," Amital said. He said that just a week ago Peres agreed that it is necessary to allow for the natural growth of the set-

HERB KEINON

tlements.

In addition, Amital said there is no reason to link development in the settlements to any housing arrangements promised haredim. Yesterday's ministerial meeting was reportedly canceled after Peres decided to build homes for haredim in Beit Shemesh, rather than in Kiryat Sefer. A decision to build in Kiryat Sefer and Betar would have necessitated the approval of the committee.

Meanwhile, the heads of settlements in the Jerusalem area met in Efrat and said they will begin a sit-in in front of the Prime Minister's Office on Sunday to protest the "freezing" of Greater

Jerusalem settlements. "Approving the plans in Greater Jerusalem is a true test for the Peres government, which promised to continue in the path of Yitzhak Rabin," Ma'aleh Adumim Mayor Benny Kashtiel said.

In addition to the sit-in, the Greater Jerusalem Forum has asked to meet both with Peres and with President Ezer Weizman. A suggestion to begin demonstrations and protests was put off. "I don't think it is a good tactical move to begin with demonstrations," said Betar head Moshe Leibowitz. "We don't want to play into anyone's hands."

In addition to Leibowitz and Kashtiel, the other settlement leaders at the meeting were Gush Etzion Regional Council head Shilo Gal, and Efrat Local Council head Yimon Ahiman.

Rabbis aim for pact between Aguda, UTJ

AGUDAT Yisrael's Council of Sages, which always attracts a great deal of media attention just prior to the elections, met yesterday and empowered a committee of rabbis to try to reach a compromise with Degel Hatorah that will enable the two parties to run again as a single faction.

United Torah Judaism, made up of Degel and Aguda, has been split in recent months over the question of how many representatives each faction will have on the next Knesset list. Degel Hatorah, representing the "Lithuanian" branch of the haredi world, is demanding parity, while Aguda, which represents the hassidic branch, wants to retain the present situation where it has 60 percent of the spots.

HERB KEINON

"This was the first meeting before the elections," said Avishai Shtockhamer, the secretary of the Council of Sages. "The council decided not to accept Degel's request for parity, but will set up a committee made up of two rabbis from Aguda, and two rabbis from Degel Hatorah, which will deal with the matter and then bring it to the rabbis."

Shtockhamer said that the council did not deal with the question of who will be on the party's Knesset list, and has until April 30 to do so. If the past is any indication, the party will wait until nearly the last minute before

making a decision.

Those who were hoping for some indication as to who the council will support in the race for prime minister were disappointed, and Shtockhamer said the issue did not come up, although it will undoubtedly be decided just prior to the elections. The rabbis' directives will influence the votes of tens of thousands of their followers, and their decisions are considered critical for either candidate.

Shtockhamer said that the council came out against haredim joining the Labor Party. "We need to be members of God-fearing parties," Shtockhamer said. "It is also not reasonable to register for a party that you will not vote for."

Palestinians protest move of mobile homes in Otniel

THE police and IDF yesterday broke up a demonstration of Palestinians near Otniel protesting the transfer of three mobile homes from the center to the outskirts of the settlement.

The demonstration was one of a number of small Palestinian protests over the last two weeks to demonstrate what they claim is land expropriation and settlement expansion.

Ron Shechner, the head of the

HERB KEINON

Hebron Hills Regional Council to which Otniel is affiliated, said that the three mobile homes were placed in an area that is "indisputably within the settlement's master plan."

"The fact is that despite all the uproar, no one - not the OC Central Command or the brigade commander - approached us and said we could not move the

mobile homes," Shechner said.

He said that about 80 Palestinians from the area tried to block the trailers moving, the mobile homes, but were dispersed by the police and IDF.

Shechner said that the transfer of the mobile homes was not a protest against the failure of the ministerial committee on settlements to meet yesterday, and that

the committee was not scheduled to discuss any plans for Otniel. Rather, he said, the mobile homes were moved now because people want to move into them. Shechner said he knows of no regulation restricting the movement of mobile homes from one site to another inside a settlement.

Otniel, located in the Hebron Hills, has some 60 families and a header yeshiva with about 120 students.

With regret we announce the death in Eemnes (the Netherlands) of

OSCAR JACQUES VAN LEER

In accordance with his will, his body has been donated for medical research.

The Executors:

L. Insinger
R. Alberts
B. ter Haar
H. Leilveld

מסגרת ירושלמית לילדים ולנוער
The Jerusalem Council for Children & Youth

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of

OSCAR VAN LEER 77

Honorary president and founder of the council and extend our sincere condolences to the family

In deep sorrow we announce the death of our beloved wife, mother and grandmother

PERLA (Pepi) VAN RIJK - KELLER

George van Rijk, Amsterdam
Meir van Rijk and family, Jerusalem

The funeral will take place in Amsterdam

Ferial and Sami Ballas and family extend their deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences to

Jacob Ballas of Singapore
on the sad passing of his beloved mother

GRACE BALLAS

THE UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA

The leadership, staff and students extend deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathy to

Harry D. Weilheimer, a devoted friend of the University, on the passing of his beloved wife

ELIZABETH ("Ebs") WEILHEIMER 77

Ben-Eliezer: I will build apartments for haredim

HERB KEINON

HOUSING Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer yesterday appealed to God for strength in being able to carry out the government's plan for construction in the haredi sector.

"Who isn't attacking me," Ben-Eliezer asked last night on a news program aimed at a religious audience on Israel Radio 1. "The Treasury is attacking me, [saying] that I am favoring the haredim. The haredim attack me, they've got figures."

"I am the only one who defends them, the only one who says they are citizens like everyone else, [who says] they have many children, a difficult socio-economic problem, and that someone needs to look after them and fight their battles," Ben-Eliezer said. "The only thing that remains for me is to continue to turn to God to give me the strength to build and to do."

Referring to the ministerial committee on settlements that was supposed to meet to approve nearly 3,000 housing units in the haredi settlements of Betar and Kiryat Sefer, but whose meeting was postponed, Ben-Eliezer said, "I want to promise that the apartments there will be built. Nothing will stand in the way. It may take some time, but we will build them. I hope it will be before the elections."

Ben-Eliezer said construction in Betar is continuing, a claim made earlier in the day by Betar Local Council head Moshe Leibowitz. A few hours before speaking on the religious news program, Ben-Eliezer met with editors from the haredi newspapers and gave details of plans to build nearly 40,000 housing units for haredim over the next decade. He reportedly told the editors that this includes 9,000 units in the Hashmounim-Matityahu-Kiryat Sefer region just over the Green Line.

Levinger begins sentence

Rabbi Moshe Levinger began a seven-month sentence in Ramle's Ayalon Prison last night, after being turned away from two different jails on two consecutive days because of a bureaucratic foul-up. Unlike the previous two days, last night officials at the prison had the papers needed to admit Levinger.

Levinger was convicted of rioting and disturbing the public order.

Herb Keinon

German FM delays visit until after elections

DAVID MAKOVSKY and news agencies

GERMAN Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel has decided to postpone his visit to Israel planned for March 3rd until after the elections here, Foreign Ministry officials said last night.

"We received word this afternoon from Bonn that Kinkel is not coming because of the elections here," one official said last night.

Germany apparently wanted to avoid being put in the position whereby Kinkel could not visit the Orient House due to the new order issued by Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal. The European Union has a policy whereby all foreign ministers who visit Israel must pay a so-called "courtesy call" at Orient House.

German officials also do not

want to stage a confrontation with the Peres government on this issue, fearing it will only play into the hands of the Likud.

The US, meanwhile, tried yesterday to avoid getting dragged into the dispute over whether Israel should prevent foreign ministers from visiting Orient House.

"This is a question that, really, the Israelis and Palestinians have to work out. They now have direct lines of communication with each other," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns told reporters.

"I think the time has come, probably, not to expect others to work out all of these problems, but to have them work their problems out directly," he said.

American Jewish support for peace process up since Rabin assassination

MARILYN HENRY NEW YORK

IN the aftermath of the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, support for the Israeli-Arab peace process has increased significantly among American Jews, the American Jewish Committee announced yesterday.

In a survey conducted last month, 75 percent of American Jews said they support the handling of the peace negotiations with the Palestinians, as compared with 64% in September 1995. In addition, 70% said they supported the handling of the talks with Syria, against 61% last September.

A large majority said they had a favorable impression of Prime Minister Shimon Peres, while their impressions of opposition leader Binyamin Netanyahu were evenly divided, the survey showed.

However, as was the case with previous surveys, American Jewish views of Israeli leaders had to be qualified by the fact that 53% were unaware that Peres and Netanyahu are in different parties.

The survey was the fourth in a series on American Jewish opin-

ion about Israel and the peace process, which began in September 1993, immediately after the signing of the Israel-PLO accord. A demographically representative national sample of 1,013 self-identified Jewish respondents was interviewed by telephone January 10-16.

While a majority of American Orthodox Jews continue to oppose the peace process, the level of opposition among the Orthodox has declined. In January, 56% of the Orthodox said they opposed the government's current handling of the peace negotiations with the Arabs, compared with 64% in September 1995. Among other findings: A large majority continue to believe that the PLO is not doing enough to control Palestinian extremist elements, like Hamas. A majority opposes amending the Law of Return to ban Jewish political extremists from the country. A large majority believes that Reform and Conservative conversions conducted in Israel should be recognized on a par with Orthodox conversions.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Netanyahu: No lists on my behalf

"There are no lists and will be no lists on my behalf. I value all the Likud candidates including Dan Meridor, a veteran member whom I greatly admire," Likud Leader Binyamin Netanyahu told reporters yesterday. To prove his point he tore up a copy of a list, omitting the names of Meridor and MK Ehud Olmert, apparently drawn up in the Likud headquarters and shown to him by a television reporter. Olmert said he believes there is no official list, and Meridor refused to comment.

Liav Collins

Imitation products entering from territories

Illegal imitations of brand-name products are being made in the Palestinian autonomous regions and sold in Israel. Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish told the Knesset yesterday. The ministry has seized hundreds of thousands of such illegal products from Israeli importers already, he said, and has filed suit against the importers. Harish said the ministry is stepping up its inspection process to combat this phenomenon, and has also asked the Palestinian Authority to take action against violators.

Evelyn Gordon

Disciplinary hearings vs. Ichilov doctor

Health Minister Ephraim Sneh has initiated disciplinary hearings against Dr. Vladimir Yakirevich, head of cardiothoracic surgery at Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv, on suspicion of serious negligence and disciplinary offenses, including practicing "black medicine."

Health Ministry Director-General Dr. Meir Oren asked Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo to suspend Yakirevich, a municipal employee, for two weeks until the end of the investigation. No additional details were provided by the ministry.

Judy Siegel-Itzkovitch

State also asks to rehear Meshulam appeal

The state yesterday joined Uzi Meshulam in asking for a second hearing with an expanded panel of justices on his appeal, but for the opposite reason. The state is arguing against the Supreme Court's decision to acquit Meshulam of one of the charges against him - shooting at a police helicopter - on the grounds that he was not present at the time. The state sides with the minority opinion, which ruled that Meshulam was guilty despite not being present, because the others were following his orders.

Evelyn Gordon

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The Jews of Lithuania Masha Greenbaum

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Cold Facts Amid Yellowstone's Grandeur

by Nancy Shute
Universal Press Syndicate

I stepped out of my tent one midnight in the middle of Yellowstone National Park, bracing myself for the sharp slap of a cold February night. I pulled off my cap and let the tiny crystals kiss my cheeks and eyelids as they melted.

My fellow travelers were asleep in their warm tents; the park was mine. I strained to hear the Upper Falls a mile away, but the air was silent save for the almost imperceptible murmur of falling snow, sifting another foot onto Yellowstone's 20-foot-deep winter blanket.

This was Yellowstone as I'd never experienced it before: no crowds, no commotion, no recreational vehicles queuing up to see the grizzly bears as if at a drive-in zoo. Instead, I had thousands of acres of geysers and bison and elk and stately spruce and fir, laid out for me on a snowy tableau that turned the thickest fumarole, or most furtive transit of a pine marten into a drama.

"In winter," Steven Fuller, photographer and winterkeeper at Yellowstone, related, "the animals are driven into a few concentrations, mostly along the thermal areas and catch basins. One of the pleasures for visitors is the chance to see large concentrations of animals up close and accessible. And the geothermals really come into their own."

Seven of us had come on a four-day snow ecology

course offered by the Yellowstone Institute (a non-profit foundation) to see for ourselves.

Arden Bailey, owner of Yellowstone Expeditions, had met us at Mammoth Hot Springs with his "snow coach," a van mounted on tracks. This was far better than using snow machines, cousins to the snowmobiles that have become so prevalent that on some weekends more than 1,000 of them converge on Old Faithful, generating noise and pollution worse than even summer's onslaught of humanity.

During the two-hour snow coach ride south from Mammoth to Canyon, Arden and Don Nelson, director of the Yellowstone Institute and our snow ecology

This was Yellowstone as I'd never experienced it before: no crowds, no commotion, no recreational vehicles queuing up to see the grizzly bears as if at a drive-in zoo.

instructor, talked familiarly about Yellowstone's transformations, much as the rest of us recount the doings of a fabulously eccentric aunt.

Don the biologist talked about how winter narrowed wildlife's already slim survival margin. "You can really see the screw factor in action here," he said, pointing at the wind-driven snow that veiled the van in a mini-blizzard, even though the sun was shining. His reference was a scientist's mnemonic for how winter's variables—snow, cold, radiation, energy and wind—"tighten the screw" of survivability. Change

any one of those factors a tiny bit, and life becomes precarious.

Winter gives Yellowstone's animals three choices: Move, adapt or die. The motion was easy to see. Trumpeter swans and white pelicans had fled, and bull elk huddled on bare spots melted by geothermal activity. The dying was easy to see, too. At Swan Lake Flats, we spotted three coyotes and a half-dozen ravens converging on the carcass of an elk whose stores of fat, laid on in summer, ran out before winter did.

Adaptation to winter is a subtler manner. Lightweight animals such as lynx and snowshoe hare glide across the snow on their wide, padded feet, but no human can walk in deep snow without quickly becoming exhausted.

Yellowstone's grizzly bears adapt to winter by hibernating until March. But many other

animals thrive, or at least survive, through temperatures that drop to 40 below. In the lodgepole pine forest near camp, Don showed us the yard-wide track where a bison had bulldozed its way along, using its immense head to reach the grass below.

"Wheee!" he shouted. The bison stood less than 10 feet away, kept from running by chest-deep snow. It glared under its snow-capped forelock while we hurried away, hoping it wouldn't expend any precious energy on us.

It's easy to become caught up in winter's big

show: the bison so close, the geysers' luxuriant steam. But the snow itself offers an extraordinary performance, creating a minute three-dimensional saga that experts decipher for clues to weather patterns, animal behavior, even the risk of avalanches.

Beneath the surface, the snow contains the history of the entire winter. On our first full day at camp, we set off into the woods armed with avalanche shovels.

"Dig," Don said, and we did, turning turns carving into the snow until we hit bare ground, 48 inches down. Following his instructions, we swept the sides of the pit with wallpaper brushes, revealing the layers of every snowfall, winter's tortoise. Scraping at lower layers with popsicle sticks, we found dense granules far different from the top's fluffy stellar crystals. Over time the crystals dry and agglomerate, forming a loose layer that, when overlaid with heavier new snow, triggers deadly avalanches. Avalanche experts often dig snow pits, brushing the sides and checking crystals just as we did, to look for dangerously unstable layers.

"This place is teeming with life right now, underneath the snowpack," Don said, pointing at the seemingly lifeless ground. Small animals such as voles, mouse-sized rodents, spend the whole winter under the snow, eating dried plants and insulated by the snow from predators and frigid air. Insects carry on, too, and some plants even photosynthesize under the thick blanket.

In the morning, before setting out, we had piled up a huge mound of loose snow near camp. During the day, the snow should have consolidated, and now we would turn the mound into a quinzhee, a snow shelter of the type built by Athabaskan Indians in Alaska's interior.

In an hour, it was done: a domed house 15 feet across and tall enough for the tallest man to stand up in. Thanks to snow's insulating properties, the temperature inside would remain at least 32 degrees, even if there were a howling storm outside.

On Sunday morning we left camp. The forest was quiet, but with Don, Arden and his partner Erica Hutchings as guides, we soon realized it was a very busy place. We could read the tracks of a pine marten, two mouse-sized paws hitting the snow together. Then a moose, walking apparently unbothered by six feet of snow. Then a coyote, its feet cutting a foot into the



Photo by Steven Fuller

Winter drives Yellowstone's animals, including bison, into a few concentrations, giving visitors greater opportunities for up-close viewing.

surface, no easy travel. Then an ermine, tracing a zigzag path; and a bison, plowing the ground bare. The history of every creature's movement since last night's snowfall was written here—a frozen record whose incontestable veracity Smilla, or any detective, would admire.

Thanks to winter, it was easy to find the mud pots and sulfur vents steaming away, easier still to tell where it was safe to walk.

We could see where a bison, tempted by the steam, had walked too close to a mud pot and had broken through over its fetlocks. It wouldn't have been a pleasant bath. Arden used pH paper to read the spring's acidity, and they tested at two, on a par with battery acid.

Back at camp, it was time to pack for Monday's trip back to Mammoth. We needed to demolish the quinzhee shelter, lest it prove a hazard for others. Jesse and Ken climbed on top. Nothing happened. They jumped. Still nothing. It took 10 of us, jumping together, to crack the dome of tiny crystals.

Mammoth offered showers, telephones and chardonnay, but we deferred those pleasures for one last fling with nature. Just off the road we followed a well-worn path to the Boiling River, where a stream of steaming-hot water pours into the Yellowstone River. It's the only place in the park where swimming in thermal water is permitted, and I'd been there in summer. But it was magic to strip off our sweaters and wool pants to step into nature's hot tub, basking in the contradictions of a Yellowstone winter.



Photo by Steven Fuller

Instructor Don Nelson reads the entire history of Yellowstone's winter as revealed in a snow pit.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Overnight accommodations within Yellowstone National Park are available only at Mammoth Hot Springs and Old Faithful, but there are many motels and restaurants in the gateway towns of Gardiner, Cody, Jackson, and West Yellowstone. Contact your local Chamber of Commerce for a list of facilities. Gardiner: (307) 438-7001; Cody: (307) 406/646-7701.

Winter temperatures are low: T-shirt temperatures to 3 below zero. Good winter clothing is essential: heavyweight layers covered with a windproof shell of nylon or Gore-Tex, heavy mitts, and extra-weight down parka. Cotton jeans and shirts are worse than useless. Don't forget camera, film and a good book for reading by the woodstove.

Reservations for winter accommodations should be made six months in advance for rooms at the Old Faithful Snow Lodge; it's often better to get accommodations at the Mammoth Hotel. Both have rooms with baths for \$61-\$200.

For more information on Yellowstone, contact the park's information center, Yellowstone National Park, P.O. Box 6640, Bozeman, Montana 59716; Yellowstone Institute, P.O. Box 945, West Yellowstone, Montana 59735; or the Yellowstone Institute, P.O. Box 417, Yellowstone, Montana 59716. (307) 344-2666.

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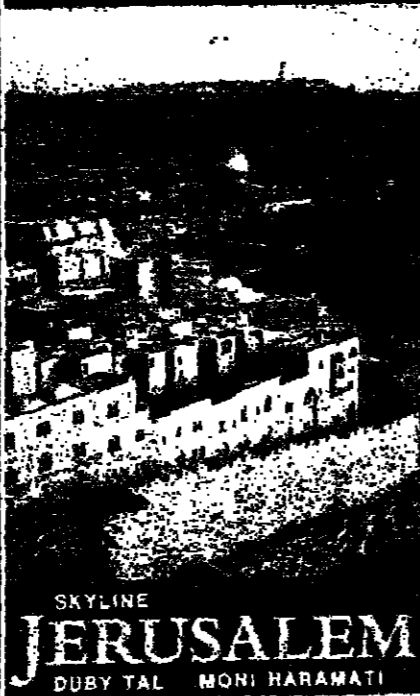
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Good Photos in the Badlands

By Carl and Ann Purcell

Copley News Service



The best shootout in the West between cowboys and Indians can be done with your trusty camera.

One crisp morning, we loaded into four-wheel-drive Jeeps and bounced over the rolling terrain in search of the mounted cowboys who were watching the buffalo herd during the annual roundup at Custer State Park in South Dakota.

Taking pictures from a moving jeep is not easy and, in fact, the best pictures of this roundup are taken from the public viewing area about a quarter-mile from the corrals. The drivers run the herd very close to this area, allowing spectators and photographers an excellent view.

After the buffaloes are in the holding corrals, you can get close-up shots. Try to crop out the fences so that your picture doesn't look like a zoo photo.

You also can explore the Badlands from the saddle. On horseback, it is a good idea to restrict yourself to one camera. We had anticipated having to carry all extra equipment in our photographers' vests, but we also could store extra film and lenses in our horses' saddlebags. Our cowboy guides signed model releases, and we were able to set up all the cliché cowboy shots we wanted on the high grassy table and with magnificent buttes.

The Badlands' colorful sunsets provide a vivid backdrop against which to silhouette the figure of a cowboy.

Keep your pictures simple. The best photographs of cowboys are taken with a clean background or against the sky. The easiest shot is when the rider is on a bluff above you. If you are not down far enough, you'll want to check that the legs of the horse are not "cut off" by the angle of your shot. Lying down on the ground to take your photo might not appeal to some city slickers, but the dirt on your leather chaps will not hurt them and the resulting picture will be worth it.

You may want to carry a polarizing filter, as the light in the Badlands is very "white." Be careful when you are using a polarizing filter not to let the sky go too dark. We underexposed all our photos by half a stop instead of using a filter. (We shot our ISO 100 film at ISO 125. If your camera reads the film speed automatically and you cannot set your ISO manually, you can set the plus-minus compensation meter for minus one-half.)

Photo by Ann and Carl Purcell

Carl and Ann Purcell are America's leading travel writing/photography team.

The Badlands provide scenic photo opportunities, particularly at sunset.

Mighty Pens Take on Bulldozers in the Utah Wilderness

By Mike Steere

"First we pollute the wilderness, then we pollute our minds ..."

—Mark Strand, Former U.S. Poet Laureate

Wilderness advocacy has produced some of America's finest literature of place—a potent example of how writers can influence the treatment of the outdoors not only in the United States, but worldwide. And in campaigns for preservation, the pen has proven mightier than the ax, chainsaw and bulldozer.

Generations of adventure travelers have been the beneficiaries.

For example, if John Muir hadn't been as much a writer as a naturalist and champion of preservation, his ideas probably would have died with him, and his beloved Yosemite Valley might not be a national park, as it became in 1890.

Pioneer conservationist Aldo Leopold's notions about keeping pristine areas forever free of roads and other man-made "improvements" seemed bizarre when he first put them forward. If he hadn't expressed himself so eloquently, New Mexico's 750,000-acre Gila National Wilderness, the nation's first, might not have been set aside in 1924.

And in 1960, author Wallace Stegner gave the movement for systematic nationwide protection of roadless wilds an enormous, some say critical, push

by penning his "Wilderness Letter" and sending it to Congress.

"Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed," Stegner wrote.

Four years later, the National Wilderness Act became law. It now protects about 100 million acres of federally owned land.

Stegner's words open "Testimony," a plea to preserve 5.7 million acres of Utah public lands under America's Redrock Wilderness Act, which is now pending in U.S. Congress. A competing bill proposes to open more than two-thirds of the same lands to development.

"Testimony" echoes Stegner's wilderness letter, with short essays, notes and poems by 20 of the U.S.'s most distinguished writers with connections to Utah, including former U.S. Poet Laureate Mark Strand, Pulitzer Prize winner N. Scott Momaday, John McPhee, Barry Lopez and Rick Bass.

What seems so compelling in today's often windy environmental word battles is the writers' refusal to do anything but say what they feel.

Writer Terry Tempest Williams and writer and photographer Stephen Trimble, both Utahans, edited and compiled the book. Williams said that she and Trimble began by sending fellow writers a letter that opened, "We need your help ..."

"The miraculous thing is that these writers delivered within two weeks," Trimble says. He and Williams assembled the book and had it ready for printing in a month.

The creators of "Testimony" hark back to earlier advocacy writing. But it all feels fresh, as if 20 voices had struck an undiscovered and irresistibly powerful chord.

What seems so compelling in today's often windy environmental word battles is the writers' refusal to do anything but say what they feel; to say why each cares what happens to the high canyons and desert that are now at risk.

"We wanted to tell stories that bypass rhetoric and pierce the heart," Williams says. "These lands are sacred. In this country, we're so afraid to talk about things that way."

Instead of broad landscapes, the book gives us spiritual, devotional miniatures.

"My place of refuge is a wilderness canyon in southern Utah," Trimble writes. "It bestows peace of mind."

This canyon lies in one of the proposed wilderness areas, but Trimble doesn't tell us where it is. The point is his personal connection to it.

Bill Kittredge, a Montana writer, university English teacher and recipient of a humanities award from President Clinton, saw his invitation to write for "Testimony" as a call to arms.

"There's been a lot of complacency among writers and everybody," he says. His contribution to the book was a far gentler sketch of animals playing in twilight along the Big Blackfoot River: "We are nothing if not mystified amid glories," he writes.

These written miniatures open windows on spectacular expanses, proposed wildernesses next to or close to southern Utah's superstar national parks: Canyonlands, Bryce, Zion, Arches and Capital Reef.

Whether "Testimony" helps move Congress to pass the Redrock Wilderness Act remains to be seen. But it will, inevitably, move thousands of readers and become part of the canon of the best American writing about landscape, outer and inner.

To order "Testimony" write or call Milkweed Editions, Suite 400, 430 First Avenue North, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55401; (001) 612/332-3192.

Information about endangered Utah wildlands: Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, 1471 South 1100 East, Salt Lake City, Utah 84105-2423; (001) 801/486-3161.

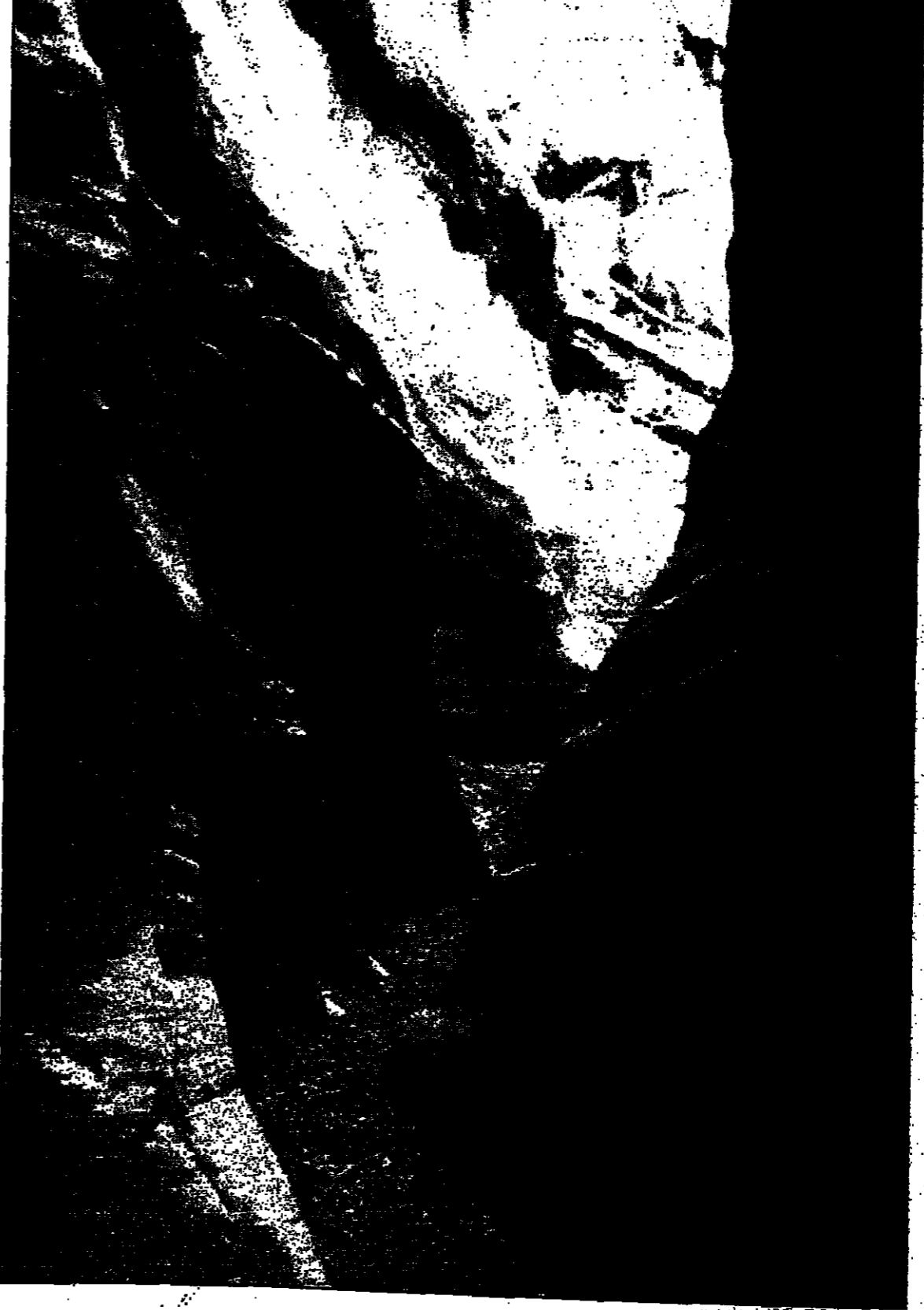


Photo by Stephen Trimble

If the contributing writers to "Testimony" have anything to say about it, the beauty of Utah canyons will be safe for future generations of travelers.

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DeVico Lisa

Get tough with adult son till he helps himself

DEAR RUTHIE
RUTHIE BLUM

DEAR Ruthie, A few months ago our 30-year-old son left the kibbutz where he's been living and moved back into our house. He will not discuss his reasons for leaving and he is making no effort to find a job. As far as we can tell, he is making no effort to find a place of his own, either. We assume he is in some kind of crisis, but cannot seem to reach him successfully. It cannot be healthy for a man of his age to sit around the house all day, doing virtually nothing. And it is causing a lot of tension in the air. We can't very well help him, if he won't even allow us to broach the subject.

Unhappily Helpless
Somewhere in Israel

Dear UH,
It is no accident that your son has chosen to "act out" his crisis by moving back into your home. This kind of dynamic does not suddenly appear, out of the blue. You probably have given him a consistent message that you would bear the brunt of his problems.

By showing up at your doorstep and behaving like someone in need of help, he is "daring" you to rescue him. Intuitively, he senses you will move mountains to accept this dare, and perhaps even blame yourselves in the process.

True, you cannot force him to get help. However, you can force yourselves to "get tough" with him. After all, treading on eggshells has not been effective. Demand that he choose one of a number of options towards recovery, with the understanding that you will permit him to remain in your home only as long as he commits to one.

Dear Ruthie,
My teenage daughter spends so much time on the phone that it is difficult for anyone to reach me. My husband and I have been resisting getting another line, partly due to the expense and partly due to a feeling that my daughter should not be "rewarded" for inconsiderate behavior. In principle, I don't feel that a family our size need have an extra phone

— especially when both parents are at work most of the day. What do you think?

Bugged by the Busy Signal
Ramat Gan

Dear BS Bugged,
If you make your daughter pay her own phone bills, installing an extra line would not constitute "rewarding" bad behavior. Furthermore, since it only takes one person to hog a receiver, you are wrong in thinking that a family your size does not require an extra phone.

If you decide against a second line, there is one alternative: Insist that your daughter do most of her gabbing when you and your husband are at work. Given the nature of teenage telecommunications, however, I doubt that this particular message will get through.

Dear Ruthie,
How can I get my recently divorced buddy to start playing the field again? I know at least three women who would die to meet him, but he won't take their phone numbers. I've even offered to double date (with my wife and me accompanying), but he is adamant.

"Bosom" Buddy
Washington, DC

Dear BB,
You cannot get your friend to do something he is not ready to do. If you really want to help him, stop pestering. Divorce takes a lot out of people. Some respond to it by "playing the field" immediately.

Others need time to mourn the termination of a marriage. In the meantime, you might ask yourself why you are so intent on fixing him up with anxious women. Is there some vicarious pleasure in it for you, perhaps? Or maybe you are of the "misery loves company" movement to make sure everyone around you is as firmly ensconced in matrimony as yourself.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail, editors@jpost.co.il (Ruthie regrets not being able to guarantee publication of every letter, but will answer every letter received.)

Cairo is trying to prevent Jews from selling off their ancient houses of prayer, Abraham Rabinovich reports

An audience made up mainly of expatriate Egyptian Jews applauded at a Tel Aviv University symposium this month when speakers called on the Egyptian authorities to save the rich Jewish heritage of Egypt — from Jews.

"In the existing circumstances," said Dr. Yoram Meital, who teaches modern Egyptian history at Ben-Gurion University, "there is no alternative but to ask the Egyptian authorities to take the synagogues under their care."

The circumstances he was referring to was the danger that the present leadership of the quickly dwindling Jewish community will sell off abandoned synagogues as real estate. "In addition, rare prayer books and Jewish artifacts — antiquities under Egyptian law — have been illegally sold to Judaica collectors abroad. Reportedly the buyers include haredim and other religious Jews.

The one synagogue remaining in Port Said was sold last year to an Egyptian property developer who is building a shopping center on the site. Carmen Weinstein, a dissident member of Cairo's Jewish community leadership, told the symposium that the sale had been made by the president of the Cairo community, Emil Russo, for 450,000 Egyptian pounds (\$132,000).

She charged that he had kept 50,000 pounds for himself as a commission. Russo could not be reached for comment. The bulk of the money from the sale is intended for the upkeep of old-age facilities and other institutions maintained by the community for its few surviving members, all elderly.

Weinstein said that Russo had also discussed the possibility of renting out two of Cairo's remaining 10 synagogues, presently empty.

"If you rent something in Cairo you can never get people out afterwards," she warned.



One of Cairo's remaining ancient synagogues, Rav Moshe. Egyptian authorities are taking over the country's synagogues to prevent Jews from selling them off.

Israel's War of Independence and close to 50,000 were either expelled or left of their own accord after the Sinai Campaign of 1956.

The subsequent nationalization of private businesses as well as the Six Day War caused most of those remaining in Egypt to depart, leaving behind tiny communities in Cairo and Alexandria.

All of the symposium's participants, including Prof. Shimon Shamir, former ambassador to Cairo and present ambassador to Amman, praised the Egyptian authorities for the protection they

afford to Jewish sites. There is a strong 24-hour security watch on all synagogues, even those no longer in use.

Weinstein said that five of the 10 synagogues in Cairo have already been declared antiquities by the Egyptian authorities by virtue of their being more than 100 years old or having some special historic feature. She called on organizations of Egyptian Jews now living abroad to petition the Egyptian authorities to take similar action regarding the remaining synagogues so as to ensure their survival.

If they are declared antiquities, the synagogues cannot be sold. Likewise, the remaining Torah scrolls, prayerbooks, and religious artifacts would be catalogued and placed under government protection, making it difficult for them to simply disappear into the antiquities market.

"It is my belief that synagogues should not be destroyed," Weinstein said. "They are an emblem of the community that has been there. To those who say 'Why keep the synagogues when there are no more Jews?' I say, 'Why

keep the pyramids when there are no more pharaohs?'"

When synagogues are declared Egyptian antiquities, she noted, it does not mean that the Jewish community is deprived of a say about them. One such synagogue, the Ben-Ezra, where the famous Cairo geniza was found a century ago, recently underwent far-reaching renovations under the auspices of the Egyptian Antiquities Authority in a project initiated and financed by Edgar Bronfman, head of the World Jewish Congress.

NOT EVERYONE agrees that all the old synagogues need be preserved.

"I think money received from the sale of unused synagogues should be invested in a Jewish museum that would reflect the legacy of this illustrious community," former Israeli ambassador to Egypt Moshe Sasson said in a recent interview.

Sasson noted that there were 32 synagogues when he took up his post in Cairo in 1981, but only 12 when he left six years later. In the absence of any rabbinical authority in Egypt, the then head of the Jewish community said he had received permission from the chief rabbis of Israel and France to sell off the synagogues, with the condition that the money be used to shore up remaining communal institutions.

Sasson suggested that a museum be created in the courtyard of the Adli Synagogue in the center of Cairo, which was lavishly restored after the Camp David agreements by philanthropist Nissim Gaon.

A former ambassador to Rome as well, Sasson noted that a gem of a Jewish museum is attached to the main synagogue of that city. An even larger one should be built in Cairo, he said.

"If I were head of the community," said the former ambassador, "I would appoint an international Jewish advisory board, including at least one Israeli, to guide me."

Weinstein, who is in charge of restoration work at the Jewish cemetery in Cairo, said that the Egyptian authorities had proven cooperative when a new road threatened to destroy 300 graves. Reacting to protests from Jews in Egypt and abroad, the government built a bridge over the endangered part of the cemetery instead.

With money donated by Sephardi philanthropists abroad, Weinstein said she has had a wall built around most of the cemetery. She is currently trying to raise funds to compensate squatters who would be moved from their present locations in and around the cemetery.

Meital, who has recently published a book, *Jewish Sites and Life in Egypt*, said that preservation of synagogues had tourism value that could not be dismissed. Beyond that, he said, the Egyptian authorities dealt respectfully with all holy places, relating to Jewish sites as part of the Egyptian national heritage.

Voodoo comes out of the dark in its African birthplace

BETH DUFF-BROWN

DOZENS of monkey and crocodile skulls dangle above the altar. As the crouching priest calls on his gods, a shaft of sunlight streams into the mud hut and the bony jaws seem to come to life.

"Pray for the good health of our families," Sossa Guedehoungue, the 86-year-old high priest of voodoo in Benin, where the 350-year-old religion began.

"Pray for the safe journey of our visitors," Sossa sings, pouring gin over a 30-centimeter-high mound of kola nuts, then swirling and spitting the alcohol at his startled guests.

And pray, his translator later says, that the visitors won't perpetuate the notion that voodoo is a form of sorcery to be feared.

In its West African birthplace, voodoo is coming out of the dark. On January 10, Benin's government inaugurated National Voodoo Day, giving the religion practiced by 65 percent of the 54 million Beninese an official place alongside Christianity and Islam.

Sossa, who was elected by priests five years ago to head the national bureau that oversees the practice of voodoo, arrives in his hometown of Doudou in a shiny Nissan, his family flag streaming from the hood as his chauffeur races the vehicle along the bumpy dirt road.

The man regarded by many Beninese as the pope of voodoo holds court, he sends envoys back and forth to negotiate his day, mediates a dispute between neighboring Moslems and Christians, and divides the kola nuts for a father who wants to know his son's future.

No pins are stuck into voodoo dolls, no glassy-eyed zombies lunge through the night. "A lot of people believe voodoo is dangerous. That's crazy," Sossa snorts in Sahoue, one of Benin's 80 dialects, as he sits surrounded by his two dozen wives and more than 100 children and 300 grandchildren. "If it were an evil thing, we wouldn't still be here."

The religion holds that all life is driven by spiritual forces of natural phenomena like fire and wind, as well as of the dead, and that they

should be honored through rituals. Animal sacrifices, trances or vanishing acts are all part of voodoo. But its followers insist there is a balance of good and evil had come to those who have a bad good.

"You are not protected for yourself," says Ambrio Medegan, a sociology professor at the University of Benin, unless, of course, you admit your sins and seek forgiveness.

Voodoo does have its sinister side, which was brought to the surface during the slave trade. It is the demonic spirit of Petro ca into being to give millions of West Africans shipped to Haiti, Cu and the Americas warrior-like powers to survive and cast evil spells on their enslavers.

When voodoo traveled west it took on a Christian flavor as followers added Catholic saints; Christian rituals to disguise rites that their owners forbade.

Many of those slaves were shipped via Ouidah, on the Gulf Guinea, where for 100 years Africans were forced to march the Port of No Return.

Today, Ouidah is the domain Sossa's chief rival, Das-Houmor-Houma, whose bush card reads, "His Excellence Supreme Chief of the Vodo Both men are equally revered.

On a recent Sunday, Dasgbo two dozen female followers lined outside his whitewashed compound to give thanks to the god of iron.

The women kowtow as Das a huge man draped in stiff cotton and necklaces of seashells lifts a goat to the sky before slits its throat and draining its blood into an altar of rusty car parts bleats for life.

The ritual ends with a toshalved kola nuts to divine the sacrifice is accepted. halves up and two halves down gives a balance to signify a dance from Gu.

Everyone nibbles on the kola nuts, which represent the b of the creator, Mawu, and sips ft a tiny calabash of sweet fruit ju in a final gesture of thanks, bef heading out at dusk for the even meal.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1996

Merhav arranges \$500 million project for Turkmenistan

RACHEL NEIMAN

MERHAV yesterday announced it has successfully completed six months of negotiations on a \$500 million oil-refinery project for the government of Turkmenistan.

The project, an upgrade of their national refinery in Turkmenbashi on the Caspian Sea, is aimed at improving two units - a Continuous Catalytic Reforming and Fluid Catalytic Cracking - and finance a third new unit for processing lube oil.

Merhav senior vice president Gideon Weinstein said the project's importance is not only its size and value, but also in its political context. "The fact that an Israeli company was able to organize this international project says something about Israel's status there [in an Islamic country]," he said.

Merhav was engaged by the government of Turkmenistan to provide financial, legal and technical assistance. With the assistance of outside advisers, including Lurgi of Germany and Baran of Israel, the company will continue to represent Turkmenistan in the next phases of the project.

The three phases of the program

were awarded to a Japanese-Turkish consortium made up of the Chiyoda, Nichimen and Gama concerns, to Technip of France and to Mannesman/KTI of Germany.

Merhav arranged for the \$500m. upgrade program with the participation of major credit agencies, including Japan ExIm, Turkish ExIm, Coface of France and Hermes of Germany.

Turkmenistan has been named a neutral position by the UN. The country plays an important part in the CIS/Russia/Iran/Turkish configuration and has the third largest reserves of gas in the world, in addition to vast potential oil reserves.

Weinstein said Merhav "may be able to take part in the development of the gas market" and outlined future plans - including a possible trans-Iranian gas pipeline serving the Turkish and European markets.

The signing was held in Ashkhabad, the capital of Turkmenistan and was attended by President Saparmurat Niyazov.

Merhav is a 40 percent partner in MIDOR (Middle East Oil Refineries), owner-operator of the planned Alexandria Peace Refinery.

Egged to turn into holding company

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

EGGED and the government signed an agreement yesterday to transform the bus cooperative into a holding company with publicly traded subsidiaries. The move will ultimately lower the cost of public transportation and make services more efficient, according to Finance Minister Avraham Shohat.

According to the agreement, within the next three to four years all the cooperative's services will be transferred to subsidiary companies, which will provide basic public transportation, as well as tourist bus lines and other services.

The new holding company will offer its subsidiaries' shares on the

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

The agreement, which encompasses a 10-year plan for Egged's restructuring, stems from an August meeting at which Egged and the government explored ways for the bus company to be run more profitably.

"The changes will allow the company to become more efficient, provide the public with better service and help Egged improve its financial standing," said Egged's spokesman Ron Radner, adding that for the next 10 years Egged's expenses are expected to decrease by two percent annually.

In September, Egged announced that its 1994 net profits totaled NIS 63.6 million, marking the company's sixth profitable year since implementing reforms in 1989.

Net profits, however, dropped 33% compared with 1993. The government will give Egged NIS 120m. this year to compensate the company for that amount in lost revenues brought on by a decrease in the number of passengers.

The government will completely stop its financing of the company by the year 2000.

Egged employs more than 8,000 workers, some 4,000 of whom are members of the collective.

'Plan to stem exit of capital from provident funds won't reverse trend soon'

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE government's decision to formulate new proposals to reduce the flight of capital from provident funds is a step in the right direction, but is not likely in the near future to reverse the trend of withdrawals, fund managers said yesterday.

The fund managers reacted to Insurance Commissioner Doron Shorer's announcement that the Treasury is working on a plan to encourage savings in the economy and reduce the withdrawal of cash from the funds.

Fund managers forecast that fund withdrawals will reach about NIS 1 billion during the first few months of the year.

Last year, withdrawals from provident funds totaled some NIS 5b.

"What is important is that he [Shorer] announced something," said Moshe Saguy, general manager of Bank Discount provident

funds. "This is already an improvement in the government's treatment of provident funds. In the past, there was virtually no public reference to the funds."

Shorer said the Treasury plans to ease investment regulations pertaining to provident funds and insurance companies in an attempt to create additional investment routes.

There are also plans to allow funds to engage in lending transactions of securities in order to execute "short" transactions. This is intended to contribute to the funds' earnings.

"The actual measures will not lead to an immediate solution to the public's withdrawals from the funds, since the proposals do not mean anything to the public," Saguy said. "For example, what

does the Maof mean to the general public?

But the proposals are expected to influence the ability of provident fund managers to improve yields, since it gives us more freedom."

According to Saguy, an improvement in funds' yields is expected to discourage the public from withdrawing their money from them. Saguy emphasized that Shorer has not yet submitted bank fund managers with a draft proposal.

The Treasury also plans to raise provident fund investments abroad to 5% of their total assets from the current 2%. Provident fund managers said the increase will prove ineffective as long as investments abroad remain subject to tax.

"Why should we invest abroad if we have to pay a 35% tax on our earnings, one provident fund manager said.

"We prefer to invest in Israel. Even now, we have less than 2% invested abroad"

The Treasury is also examining a proposal to allow fund savers to use liquid funds as collateral to receive credit.

Shorer said he is not troubled by the public's escape from the provident funds in 1995, since the rate of savings in the economy has not decreased.

More than NIS 6 billion was withdrawn from the funds since the start of 1995.

"The exit from the funds is a natural occurrence, since about 60% of the money in the funds is liquid," Shorer said.

"In addition, 80% of the money was transferred into the saving funds and other saving routes."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Consortium of telecom firms set up telecommunications provider: A consortium of telecom companies yesterday announced the formation of Newton, an international telecommunications provider for Israel. The partners are British Telecom (25%), MCI (15%), Tadiran, Idan Software Industries and Darcom (20% each). BT owns 20% of MCI. Before the inclusion of Idan, the consortium was previously called Globe-Tel. Jerusalem Global Consultants announced yesterday it will lead a \$500,000 private placement in medical technology firm High Sense. Rachel Neiman

Africa Israel yesterday reported it is not negotiating to reduce its holdings in Migdal. The announcement was sent to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange in reaction to published reports that claimed otherwise. Galit Lipkis Beck

Laser Ind. suffers \$2.33m. net loss

COMPANY RESULTS
RACHEL NEIMAN

LASER INDUSTRIES suffered a \$2.33 million net loss last year, compared with \$4m. in net profits in 1994. Annual revenues went up to \$50m. from \$40.55m.

Net losses in the fourth quarter were \$6.4m., compared with a \$1m. net gain in the comparable 1994 quarter. Revenues rose to \$13.52m. from \$11.55m.

Results included \$8.12m. in litigation settlement expenses of a patent dispute. Laser pointed out that without the one-time expense, net profits were \$1.69m. for the quarter and \$5.79m. for the year.

The company is going ahead with its planned entrance into the field of laser hair removal, under the brand name "Zaias," following the formation of a new joint venture subsidiary called Sharpian 2000.

Magie Software Enterprises has reported improvement in annual and quarterly results, as net losses last year were \$438,000, compared with net losses of \$1.4m. in 1994.

Annual revenues went up to \$25.38m. from \$21.37m. Fourth quarter net profits were \$1m., compared with net losses of \$81,000 in the parallel period. Revenues went up to \$8.9m. from \$6.6m.

President David Assia said results reflected two straight quarters of profitability due to new accounts in Magie's target markets. New clients included the UK Postal Service, the Boston Globe, Southern California Edison, Hughes, Gannet and British Sky Broadcasting.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patrah (foreign currency deposit rates) (22.2.96)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.250	4.250	4.250
French franc (FF 200,000)	1.875	1.875	2.250
Swedish krona (SEK 200,000)	0.250	0.375	0.750
Yen (10 million yen)			

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (21.2.96)

CURRENCY AND TRANSACTIONS	CHECKS		BAUHTOTES		Rep. Bank
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
Currency basket	3.4776	3.3336			3.3119
U.S. dollar	3.0575	3.1158	3.01	3.17	3.0870
German mark	2.1067	2.1458	2.07	2.14	2.1217
French franc	4.2357	4.0101	4.25	4.28	4.7740
Japanese yen (100)	0.0119	0.0218	0.02	0.04	0.0184
Dutch florin	2.8019	2.9468	2.85	2.98	2.8575
Swiss franc	1.8848	1.9154	1.85	1.85	1.9059
Swedish krona	2.2852	2.2829	2.54	2.57	2.6135
British pound	0.4517	0.4590	0.44	0.47	0.4677
Norwegian krona	0.0822	0.0800	0.07	0.05	0.0722
Denish krona	0.5423	0.5541	0.53	0.57	0.5610
Finland mark	0.5728	0.5802	0.65	0.70	0.6856
Canadian dollar	2.2184	2.2542	2.18	2.28	2.2455
Australian dollar	2.3084	2.3437	2.28	2.28	2.3272
African rand	0.7738	0.7851	0.70	0.76	0.7806
British East (10)	1.0258	1.0424	1.00	1.05	1.0301
Austrian schilling (10)	3.0008	3.0480	2.94	3.10	3.0503
Italian lire (1000)	1.9421	1.9735	1.80	2.01	1.9893
Jordanian dinar			4.27	4.31	4.3688
Egyptian pound			0.07	0.08	0.0848
Ecu	3.8778	3.8882			3.9165
West mark	4.5708	4.5419	4.78	5.02	4.9255
Spanish peseta (100)	2.5015	2.5419	2.48	2.53	2.5275

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

IFTRIC collects \$50m.

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Israel Foreign Trade Risks Insurance Company (IFTRIC) and the Treasury collected \$50 million last year resulting from political risks, according to IFTRIC's annual report for 1995.

The debts were collected in cooperation with the general accountant at the Treasury. IFTRIC said most of the debts were accumulated as a result of a shortage in foreign currency and political risks. The debts are to Israeli companies involved in export transactions mainly with African and South American companies.

Ports and Railways Authority The Tendering Board

Head Office - Engineering Department - Project Management Division

Public Tender No. 14/1927/002/95

- The Ports and Railways Authority in Israel (hereinafter referred to as "The P.R.A.") - Head Office - invites prospective contractors to submit their tenders for the design, manufacture, supply and installation of a dust suppression loading chute and dust collecting system on a phosphate bulk loader at Eilat port.
- In order to qualify for the said tender, the tenderer must meet the following requirements:
 - Have proven experience of at least five years in the design, manufacture, supply and installation of dust suppression chutes and dust collecting systems (list of projects executed by the tenderer in the past 5 years shall be submitted).
 - Have visited the site of works, whether by himself or by his agent to make himself familiar with the loader.
- The following parameters will be used for the proposal analysis and the selection of the expert:
 - Technical adherence.
 - Chute operating weight meets loader restriction.
 - Chute capacity meets specification requirements.
 - Dust suppression meets specification requirements.
 - Simplicity and ease of maintenance.
 - Previous experience - at least 10 operating systems operating with similar materials.
 - Project cost.
- The documents pertaining to this tender are available at the P.R.A.'s Project Management Division, 74 Derech Petach Tikva, 12th floor, Room 1221, from Monday, February 26, 1996.
- More information can be obtained by phone or fax from:

A. Ofer, Head of the Equipment and Maintenance Division
74 Derech Petach Tikva, Tel Aviv 67215, Israel
Tel. 972-3-5657923
Fax. 972-3-5617143
- Tenders should be submitted, with all requested enclosures, in a sealed envelope, not later than April 30, 1996 at 2 p.m., and should be put in the Tender Box at the P.R.A. Head Office, 74 Derech Petach Tikva, Tel Aviv, 6th floor.
- The P.R.A. is not obliged to accept the lowest or any proposal.

PRIME פריים
PRIME פריים
Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents

Date: 20.2.96
Purchase Price: 108.89
Redemption Price: 107.43

למסחר בלבד

(מטרה) TARGET
Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents

Date: 20.2.96
Purchase Price: 147.77
Redemption Price: 145.51

למסחר בלבד

Opting for a bull's eye, every time?
Let us handle your portfolio.

TACHLIT
Portfolio Management Co. Ltd.
A Member Of Israel Discount Bank Group.

JOIN US TELEBANK.
DIAL 03-5129111 FROM 8 AM TO 11 PM.

Israel Petrochemical Enterprises Ltd.
Notice of Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting of the company will take place at the company's offices at Beit Eliahu, 2 Rehov Ibn Gabirol, Tel Aviv, on Sunday, March 24, 1996, at 11 a.m.

Agenda

- Discussion of the financial reports of the company, for the year ending December 31, 1995.
- The final dividend for 1995.
- The appointment of auditors, and fixing their fees.
- The appointment/election of directors, and fixing their salaries, and the activities for which they will be responsible.

The articles of association of the company state that if a quorum is not present within one hour of the time set for the start of the meeting, the meeting will be postponed to the next day, at the same time and place.

If a quorum is then not present within one hour of the time set, the meeting will be held, whatever the number of people present.

L. Weizmanik
Company Secretary

Israel Petrochemical Enterprises Ltd.
Notice of Annual General Meeting

An extraordinary general meeting of the company will take place at the company's offices at Beit Eliahu, 2 Rehov Ibn Gabirol, Tel Aviv, on Sunday, March 24, 1996, at 12 noon.

Agenda

The proposing of a special resolution, to amend the Articles of Association of the company, as follows:

Article 50 of the Articles of Association of the Company shall be replaced by the following:

Two members, present in person or by proxy, holding between them at least 51% of the issued ordinary shares of the Company, shall constitute a quorum at general meetings.

The proposed amendment would have the effect of reducing a quorum from 75% to 51%.

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L. Weizmanik
Company Secretary

Key Representative Rates
US dollar NIS 3.0970 +0.46%
Sterling NIS 4.7740 +0.25%
Mark NIS 2.1917 +0.24%

NEW YORK STOCK MARKET
New York market indexes
DJ Industrial 10000.00 +1.25
DJ Transport 10000.00 +1.25

Other stock market indexes
FTSE 100 3725.64 +1.11
Nikkei 225 14212.00 +1.25

Israeli stocks in NY
NYSE/AMEX
Amgen 100.00 +1.25
Amgen 100.00 +1.25

NEW YORK MONEY MARKETS
Dollar crossrates (US)
Pound 1.544 -0.004

Liber rates
Dollar 3 months 5.125
Dollar 6 months 5.125

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.
Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds

NEW YORK COMMODITIES AND METALS
US commodities
Cotton (MID) 52.00 +0.10

London commodities
Gold 380.00 +0.10
Silver 4.50 +0.05

Spot market metals (US)
Gold spot 402.40 +0.10
Gold 5.18 +0.10

New York metal futures
Copper 1.70 +0.05
Copper 1.70 +0.05

London metal futures
Gold 380.00 +0.10
Silver 4.50 +0.05

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading Two-sided trading

Commercial Banks, Industrial, Mortgage Banks & Finance, Financial Institutions, Insurance, Trade & Services, Oil Exploration, PARALLEL LIST, Property, Building & Agriculture, Trade & Services, Industrial

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

NEW YORK, LONDON, PARIS, FRANKFURT, STERLING, YEN, SFR, FFf

Rising bank shares lift indexes

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

FELICE MARANZ
203.73 +0.28%
211.98 +0.23%

Two-Sided Index Maof Index

INDEXES rose for a second day yesterday, boosted by rising bank shares. Bank Hapoalim went up for a second day, gaining 2.25 percent.

Euro bourse rally boosted by Wall Street

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - European stock markets ended higher yesterday after a shaky start, getting a late fillip from Wall Street - which was up 50 points at the end of the European trading day.

Bargain hunters send Dow Jones higher

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The Dow Jones industrial average bounced back yesterday as bargain hunters re-emerged one day after the blue-chip index plummeted on the back of a sharp rise in long-term interest rates.

CURRENCY CROSS RATES
MARK STERLING YEN SFR FFf

Capriati wins in comeback

ESSEN, Germany (AP) - Returning triumphantly to a tennis court she quit in despair, Jennifer Capriati breezed to a first-round win yesterday in her first tournament in 15 months.

Capriati emerged from a slide into tennis burnout, teenage rebellion and drug rehabilitation to overwhelm seventh-seeded Kristina Boogert of the Netherlands 6-1, 6-2 at the WTA indoor tournament in Essen.

The 19-year-old American was in astounding form, willing herself to her first victory in two and a half years with aggressive play. Boogert, ranked 32nd in the world, hardly knew what hit her.

Capriati's on-court tension melted away into a broad smile when she claimed victory after 51 minutes.

"It means a world to me," she said at the winner's news conference. "I just couldn't wait to get back to playing. It was fun."

Also smiling was Capriati's father, Stefano, who watched his daughter's long-awaited triumph from the side of the court.

Capriati, who began training for a comeback last summer, made up for a tentative serve and occasional easy misses with precise returns and double-fisted backhand winners.

Though Capriati's forehead was sometimes as hard as Steffi Graf's, "sometimes I had the feeling that she had no clue where she was hitting, just hitting everything hard," Boogert said.

It was only Capriati's second match since she dropped off the tour in 1993 after a first-round loss at the US Open and headed into drugs and brushes with the law.

Boogert, who appeared lost on the court, was no serious measure of Capriati's form. But clearly Capriati showed promise in her attempt to restart a career that began with age 13 in 1990.

In today's second round, she is due meet Barbara Schett, a 19-year-old Austrian ranked 56th on the WTA list.

Capriati had planned her return last week at the Paris Open but withdrew at the last minute, citing a pulled muscle.

The \$450,000 Essen indoor tournament then offered her a wild-card invitation.

"A long struggle seems ahead for the former teenage tennis sensation once ranked No. 6 in the world but now off the list. Unlike Monica Seles upon her return, Capriati got no special treatment from the WTA and will have to work her way up through the rankings."

Capriati had the element of surprise on her side.

"I had no clue what to expect," said Boogert. "The first three games I was more looking at her and how she was playing. Then I finally knew how she was playing, because she was hitting winners all over the place."

"She was hitting the ball great."

Israel tops Lithuania in friendly

ISRAEL emerged 4-2 victors over Lithuania in last night's friendly international played before a paltry crowd of some 3,000 at Kiryat Eliezer.

The play on the Haifa field reflected the lack of atmosphere in the stadium, with both sides stretched to come up with anything resembling a creative idea.

Shomo Scharf's men generally had the better of the play against a weakened Lithuanian lineup which did not include players earning their bread and butter in other domestic leagues. Nevertheless the man entrusted with guiding Israel through the next World Cup qualifiers will be disappointed with his squad's showing against a side that let the Israelis come at them.

Les Kershaw, the Manchester United scout was equally unimpressed by what he witnessed, stating after the match that "while a number of the Israeli players showed

DEREK FATTAL

some skill and flair, the game was simply not competitive enough for me to make any reliable assessment about any player." Kershaw noted the contribution of Israeli midfielders Haim Revivo, Eyal Berkowitz and Itzik Zohar, but felt Gadi Brumer - whose name has been specifically linked with United - had so little to do in the game, that there was no likelihood that he would be recommending his purchase at present.

After a cautious opening, Israel began to take the game forward through the Hapoel Haifa pairing of Tal Banin and Reuven Atar. Atar found goal in the 23rd minute, heading home a parry by Lithuanian goalkeeper Darius Spetya from a Revivo close range shot. Eight minutes later, Banin joined in the act, rifling home a

careless clearance from a corner into the foot of the visitor's goal. The Israelis became too casual and quickly paid the price allowing Darius Maciulevicius to pull back a goal a minute later. The play stuttered during the second half following a host of substitutions by Scharf. Itzik Zohar, who replaced Berkowitz took time to find his feet but finally injected some life into the proceedings with a fierce long-range blast that found goal in the 75th minute.

Ten minutes later, Alon Hazan skirted down the right flank and crossed true into the path of substitute Amir Turjeman, who slotted in Israel's fourth. The jubilation was muted when Lithuania hit a second goal in the 89th minute through Gintaras Rimkus, to remind home fans that despite the scoreline, this was not one of Israel's better nights.

Sri Lanka, India grab important victories

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) - Aravinda de Silva and Asanka Gurusinha steered Sri Lanka to a six-wicket victory over Zimbabwe as India tamed the furious pace of the West Indies bowling in cricket World Cup matches yesterday.

Vice-captain Sachin Tendulkar's chancy 70 runs in a 79-run partnership with captain Mohammad Azharuddin pushed India to a five-wicket victory. India made 174 runs in 39.4 overs in reply to West Indies' 173 all out in 50 overs.

The West Indies themselves fell prey to Indian spin and medium pace in the central Indian city of Gwalior.

Leg spinner Anil Kumble took 3 for 35 in 10 overs. Medium pacers Manoj Prabhakar took 3 for 39 and Javagal Srinath 2 for 22.

"We bowled well, fielded well and batted well," said Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin.

Another vice-captain's knock was that by Sri Lanka's de Silva who hammered 91 runs in 86 balls in a 172-run partnership for the third wicket with left-hander Gurusinha, who made 87 in 102 balls.

Between them, the veterans cracked 15 boundaries and eight sixes, sending an estimated 21,000 spectators into frenzied joy after they were silenced by Sri Lankan openers' dismissals in the first and fifth overs.

Sri Lanka made 229 for 4 in 37 overs in reply to Zimbabwe's 228 runs in 50 overs, earning two more points in their Group A standing.

This was the first match Sri Lanka played in the tournament but earned four points previously because of "walkovers" received from Australia and West Indies, who refused to play in the island nation because of security concerns.

The West Indies now has only two points from a victory against Zimbabwe last Friday. India has four points, including two from its victory against Kenya over the weekend.

Yesterday, luck smiled on India. Its opener Ajay Jadhava was bowled in the first over by paceman Curtly Ambrose, who also bowled one-down Navjot Singh Sidhu soon after. India was 15 for 2 after four overs at that stage.

But Tendulkar, the cricket wonder who made his debut at the age



THE WINDWARD SIDE - Windies captain Richie Richardson (r) plays a ball in front of Indian wicketkeeper Nayan Mongia.

of 16, got a life at 12 when Shivnarine Chanderpaul failed to hold a catch. Tendulkar mistimed a shot while on 22 to loft the ball over short square leg. Wicketkeeper Courtney Browne came running in, but spilled the chance.

Tendulkar was again dropped at 32 by Courtney Walsh off his own bowling.

But he ran himself out with his score reading 70, made in 91 minutes with eight fours.

He was adjudged man of the match.

The West Indies run of bad luck began while they were batting.

Star batsman Brian Lara was on two when he tried to play a delivery from Srinath. He seemed to have missed but the ball was taken by wicketkeeper Nayan Mongia who appealed for caught behind.

Stockton steals the show; Orlando sets mark

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - John Stockton broke Maurice Cheeks' NBA career record for steals Tuesday night.

The Utah guard reached steal No. 2,311 when he snatched the ball from the hands of Boston's Eric Williams with 8:21 remaining in the Jazz' 112-98 victory over the Celtics.

Stockton's big play came after Boston's Rick Fox had passed to Williams on the baseline. Stockton slapped the ball loose, resulting in a 3-point by Chris Morris that put Utah up 100-72.

Stockton, who set the NBA career record for assists almost a year ago, entered the game with 2,309 steals, one shy of the record Cheeks built in 15 seasons.

Stockton, an eight-time All-Star in his 12th year, will play for the US Olympic squad this summer after making the Dream Team in Barcelona four years ago.

Averaging 1.68 steals per game this season, Stockton tied the mark with 5:08 left in the second quarter when he slapped a pass from the hands of Eric Montross to teammate Antoine Carr.

Alvin Robertson of Toronto is third on the steals list with 2,050 and Chicago's Michael Jordan is fourth with 1,958. The NBA didn't begin counting steals as an official statistic until 1973.

On February 1, 1995, Stockton surpassed Magic Johnson's NBA record for assists. Stockton leads with an average of 11.3 per game and is bidding for his ninth consecutive assists title. He also is the only guard among the top 10 in field goal percentage.

Lost in the hoopla Tuesday was another record set by Stockton: career 3-pointers for Utah. He made his 531st with 26.2 seconds left in the first half, topping Darrell Griffith's mark of 530.

Magic 123, 76ers 104

Orlando set an NBA record for home wins at the start of a season, improving to 28-0 at Orlando Arena.

Orlando, which got 24 points and 13 rebounds from Shaquille O'Neal, broke a 49-year-old standard set by the 1946-47 Washington Capitols team coached by Red Auerbach. The Atlantic Division leaders have won 35 straight regular-season games on their homecourt, three shy of the league record held by the Boston Celtics.

Dennis Scott was 6-for-8 from 3-point range and scored 20 in the first half.

Bulls 102, Cavaliers 76

One game after Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen had almost all of the Bulls' points, the two sat back and let Ron Harper score a season-high 22.

Dennis Rodman added 15 rebounds for host Chicago, who used a 53-30 advantage on the boards to improve to 47-5 overall and 24-0 at home. Chicago has won six straight games and has a 31-game home winning streak dating to last season.

Terrill Brandon scored 21 points for the Cavaliers, whose eight-game winning streak was stopped.

Bucks 92, Knicks 87

Glenn Robinson scored 27 points

Maccabi TA trounces Rishon to reach State Cup semifinals

EVEN though Maccabi Rishon Lezion wasn't responsible for Maccabi Tel Aviv's elimination from European playoff contention last week, Tel Aviv took out its frustrations on the Rishon club last night anyway, in a 102-72 rout in the second leg of the State Cup quarter-finals.

The 30-point romp leaped Maccabi Tel Aviv into the semifinals, erasing a 13-point deficit inflicted upon them by the Rishon club in the first leg.

In other quarter-final action, Hapoel Jerusalem beat Ra'anana 97-77, and Bnei Herzliya slipped by Hapoel Eilat 77-74. Jerusalem and Herzliya advance to the semis.

In the final game last night, Maccabi Netanya edged Hapoel Galil Elyon 80-79, but it wasn't enough to overcome the first-round deficit; Galil advanced.

A draw will determine the semifinal opponents.

In Yad Eliyahu, Tel Aviv's starting lineup put forth one of its most consistent performances of the season. Nadav Henefeld was flawless, shooting a remarkable 11-for-11 to rack up 22 points.

Tom Chambers, who picked up four fouls and spent large segments of the game on the sidelines, chipped in 20 points of his own on sharp shooting.

Rishon Lezion, which never seemed to put enough defensive pressure on the Tel Avivians, had

only a couple of performers. Brian Oliver led with 17 points. James Gully and Kobi Baloul also put some decent effort into an overall lackluster outing.

Zvi Scharf's Maccabians came on strong from the tip-off onwards. Henefeld shot consistently from the field, as did most of the Maccabi starters. The team led 20-10 after eight minutes.

Rishon Lezion staged its only serious rally of the game at that point - Baloul and Oliver providing the offensive pressure - and Rishon pulled as close as 22-18 before Tel Aviv got back into its rhythm.

Tel Aviv showed steady composure throughout the first half. Missing were spectacular shots and blocks. Instead of the flash, the team took a conservative tack to their game, aided by a Rishon squad that spent more time arguing fouls than putting their heads in the game.

Going into the half behind 48-27, Roni Bosaani lay into his team with a vengeance, but to no avail. With 10 minutes left in the game, down 74-47, the Rishonians had already begun to fall apart, taking wild shots and making more fouls.

As Rishon fell apart, Tel Aviv played more relaxed, and surprisingly continued to score as well as ever, as Brad Leaf, Oded Katash and Doron Jamchee took their shots, with some accuracy.

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and Vin Baker had 23 as Milwaukee won its fourth straight at Madison Square Garden.

The Bucks bounced back after losing their previous two games by 23 and 30 points. Robinson and Baker each had 11 rebounds, and Robinson was 12-for-12 from the free-throw line. The Bucks took 21-of-23 on foul shots and won 23 of 25 field goals in the final three minutes.

The Knicks, whose six-game home winning streak ended, made only one field goal in the final three minutes and shot just 38 percent from the field.

Lakers 121, Clippers 104

Los Angeles continued its winning ways without Magic Johnson, who strained his right calf in the opening minutes of a home victory.

Vlade Divac scored 14 of his season-high 29 points and Cedric Ceballos had 15 of his 21 in a decisive third quarter as the Lakers won their sixth straight and their 10th in the last 11 games. The loss was the 10th in the last 11 games for the Clippers.

Johnson played just 1:03 before coming out for good with 8:23 left in the first period. He immediately headed to the dressing room and left the Forum before the game was over.

Spurs 108, Trail Blazers 105

David Robinson had 39 points, nine rebounds and eight blocks as San Antonio began its longest road trip of the season.

The Blazers, 0-5 since the All-Star break, lost their sixth in a row at home, tying a franchise record set in 1971-72, the team's second season, and tied the following season.

Sean Elliott had 21 points, Vinny Del Negro 20 and Avery Johnson a season-high 15 assists for the Spurs, who stayed a half-game behind first-place Utah in the Midwest Division. Gary Trent had 19 points and 10 rebounds for Portland.

TUESDAY'S NBA RESULTS: Chicago 102, Cleveland 76; Orlando 123, Philadelphia 104; Milwaukee 82, New York 81; San Antonio 108, Portland 105; L.A. Lakers 121, L.A. Clippers 104

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	28	14	.667	0
Washington	23	22	.511	6 1/2
Miami	22	29	.432	14 1/2
New Jersey	22	29	.431	15 1/2
Cleveland	22	28	.438	16
Philadelphia	10	40	.200	27

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	47	5	.904	0
Indiana	32	19	.627	14 1/2
Cleveland	30	21	.588	16 1/2
Atlanta	28	23	.549	18 1/2
BOSTON	28	23	.551	18 1/2
Cyprus	25	28	.470	21
Milwaukee	20	30	.400	28
Toronto	14	36	.280	32

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	35	16	.686	0
San Antonio	34	16	.680	1/2
Houston	33	22	.600	2
Dallas	32	23	.581	4
Dallas	31	24	.563	5 1/2
Minnesota	14	36	.280	20 1/2
Vancouver	11	40	.216	27

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	28	17	.619	0
L.A. Lakers	31	19	.620	1/2
Sacramento	24	24	.500	13 1/2
Phoenix	24	26	.480	14 1/2
Golden State	22	28	.442	16
Portland	24	28	.471	16
L.A. Clippers	17	34	.333	22

TUESDAY'S NFL RESULTS: Ottawa 7, St. Louis 1; Calgary 5, San Jose 3; Rhode Island 6; No. 2 Kentucky 84, Alabama 55; No. 1 Massachusetts 74; No. 9 Texas Tech 75, Southern Methodist 54; Seton Hall 80, No. 15 Syracuse 70; No. 19 Memphis 91, Southern Mississippi 66.

Joseph Hoffman, Sports Editor

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